Entusiastiche testimonianze di chi mercoledì sera ha visto sfrecciare il grosso meteorite nel cielo di Genova

Così bello che vien voglia di chiedere il bis

Lo spettacolo della scia colorata ha stupito ma anche un po' spaventato

Palla di fuoco chiamata bolide

Mercoledì 17 alle ore 22 circa è stata avvistata una luminosissima palla di fuoco che ha attraversato il cielo da Nord a Sud. Ed è da escludere che si trattasse di un aeroplano. Un po' più verosimile potrebbe essere l'ipotesi di un satellite artificiale al suo rientro nell'atmosfera. Ma la direzione Nord-Sud, estremamente rara nelle orbite dei satelliti, che in genere vanno da Ovest ad Est, e la scia molto lunga, sembrerebbe negare anche questa ipotesi. Del resto nessuna comunità scientifica lascerebbe precipitare un satellite artificiale su un'area densamente popolata senza avvertire nessuno (o almeno c'è da sperarlo).

L'osservazione da un'area vastissima (ci sono segnalazioni addirittura da Milano-Malpensa e da altre città del nord Italia) esclude che si tratti di fuochi artificiali e non come quelli che a Scarpino crearono, qualche tempo fa, poco attendibili avvistamenti di Ufo.

Resta l'ipotesi più ragionevole, cioè una meteora di grandi proporzioni, che in questi casi prende il nome di «bolide».

E', in pratica, un sasso vagante nello spazio, che viaggiando ad elevatissima velocità (100 mila - 200 mila chilometri l'ora), incontra la Terra, entra negli strati alti dell'atmosfera, e per l'attrito si arroventa lasciando una scia luminosissima.

Quando sono abbastanza grandi, questi «oggetti» possono diventare tanto brillanti da essere visti in pieno giorno. Un esempio risale alla mattinata del 5-12-84, e gli avvistamenti riguardavano la Liguria, la Costa Azzurra e il Basso Piemonte. Andava in direzione Sud-Nord. Studi successivi determinarono, con una certa attendibilità, che passò a circa 60 km. di altezza sopra Montecarlo, per andare a finire la sua corsa nella zona del Monviso. Probabilmente si disintegrò a 20 km di quota e forse alcuni frammenti caddero a terra.

Ma era inverno e c'erano 2 metri di neve. A primavera qualcuno cercò un po' per vedere se trovava qualche cosa ma naturalmente non trovò nulla anche perché l'area probabile di caduta copriva una superficie di un centinaio di chilometri quadrati.

Questi fenomeni avvengono a grande altezza e ciò li rende visibili da vaste aree. Quello di mercoledì, per esempio, l'ha notato mezza Italia.

Rispetto alle normali stelle cadenti che lasciano una bella scia ma non danno l'impressione di arrivare al suolo, talvolta i «bolidi» paiono giungere a terra, ed anche in modo brutale, tanto che molti si aspettano chissà quali danni. In realtà è difficilissimo che riescano a colpire la superficie. Già oltre i 20 km di altezza l'attrito è così forte che generalmente si disintegrano o si spezzano in frammenti, letteralmente «esplodendo».

I casi di impatto violento al suolo sono estremamente rari. Tra l'altro non sempre cadono o vengono distrutti

Tre o quattro secondi, non di più. Ma di un'intensità e una bellezza uniche. Quella palla di fuoco nel cielo ha fatto gridare di meraviglia genovesi di ogni età. Alle 22,15, minuto più minuto meno, di mercoledì sera, un meteorite si è fiondato velocissimo a circa 100 chilometri dalla Terra. Un corpo più grande bluastro e una coda a diverse gradazioni di rosso, questo hanno impresso nella retina centinaia di persone che hanno tempestato i centralini del "Secolo XIX", dei carabinieri e della polizia, chi per esprimere il proprio stupore, chi per manifestare un pizzico di paura e incredulità.

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Insomma un avvenimento raro. Qualcuno ha scomodato un evento simile accaduto prima della guerra. Chi ha visto ha però puntato il proprio commento sulla bellezza del fenomeno. Quei colori e quella gradazione di colori hanno suscitato interesse e stupore e poi la curiosità di saperne di più. Così si spiegano le decine di telefonate al nostro giornale, alla polizia e ai carbinieri.

Il meteorite "viaggiava" con ogni probabilità in direzione nord-sud. E' stato avvistato un po' dappertutto: a ponente principalmente ma anche a Nervi. Quella "palla di fuoco" sbucava dalla collina e proseguiva la sua corsa verso il mare. Qualcuno ha giurato di averla vista precipitare nelle acque del mar ligure. Ma si è trattato, con ogni probabilità, di un

Un meteorite come quello della foto è stato avvistato da moltissimi genovesi

Credibile il passaggio di un corpo celeste. La metà di agosto, si sa, è il periodo buono per le stelle cadenti. Cadono, dicono gli esperti, in gran quantità, anche se si vedono raramente. E di raro questo meteorite aveva parecchio: la luminosità, la vicinanza (ma anche questo è più che altro un effetto ottico), la grandezza. E poi tutti quei colori: per chi aveva il naso all'insù o stava passeggiando, una soffocante notte d'agosto ha regalato attimi irripetibili di spettacolo. Era di scena uno splendido atto unico della natura.

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Entusiasmo, stupore. I genovesi hanno gradito lo "show" del meteorite ferragostano. Uno spettacolo breve, troppo breve, come una star bizzosa che si concede appena e poi lascia il palcoscenico. Ma anche un'"esibizione" che non si scorderà mai più. *«Un oggetto luminoso stupendo»* spiega al telefono l'ennesimo genovese che ha scelto il "Secolo XIX" per esternare la propria meraviglia *«Mi trovavo alla fermata dell'autobus e volevo gridare: quella scia luminosissima e multicolori mi aveva abbagliato. Una visione fantastica. Ma poi ho pensato che mi avrebbero preso per matto ed ho lasciato perdere»*.

"Spettacolo", "stupendo", "visione fantastica". Davvero il veloce passaggio del corpo celeste ha acceso la fantasia dei genovesi. Ma c'è stato qualcuno che l'altra sera si è preso anche paura. Pensava alla caduta di un aereo ed ha chiamato i carabinieri e poi il nostro centralino per avere informazioni. Si è rassicurato soltanto quando ha saputo del meteorite.

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La delusione, lo "scoprir del vero" che uccide i sogni arriva poco dopo. I più lesti sono in cima al monte Teiolo poco prima di mezzanotte. Gli Ufo erano un gruppo di fedeli

proprio come un'astronave che sta cercando un punto adatto per l'atterraggio. A chi aveva raggiunto con il fiato in gola la vetta non è rimasto che commentare, con i tanti altri compagni d'avventura, tutte le fasi di una cocente disfatta. Quelle luci erano state accese per una processione. E la festa religiosa era stata perino annunciata con numerosi manifesti murali.

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La traiettoria molto lunga del meteorite avvistato mercoledì (pare che alcuni l'abbiano visto addirittura tramontare oltre l'orizzonte, o come dicono altri, «cadere in mare», potrebbe anche far pensare ad un percorso del tipo suddetto.

Quando avremo, se riusciremo ad averlo, qualche dato preciso (per esempio punto di inizio e fine della scia in cielo, e luogo esatto dell'osservazione), con il metodo delle triangolazioni sarà possibile determinare il cammino fatto con una certa precisione.

Pietro Planezio
Oss. Astronomico
di Sestri Pon.

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Escluso invece che quella scia luminosa e multicolore potesse essere un aereo o un satellite. Un'ipotesi subito scartata dagli uomini radar dell'areostazione genovese.

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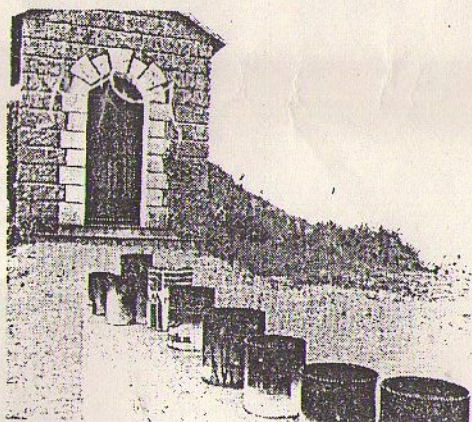
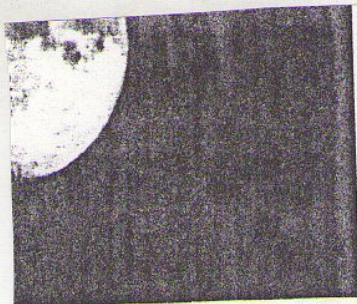
E' domenica, il 14 settembre 1983, la serata è calda e il cielo sereno. I centralini dei carabinieri e della polizia sono tempestati da centinaia di chiamate. Telefona soprattutto gente che abita a ponente di Genova, lungo il Polcevera. In alto, fra Scarpino e Murta, ci sono strane luci, tutte uguali e che formano un disegno perfettamente geometrico. Per i più creduloni, o appassionati di fantascienza, non c'è ombra di dubbio: un disco volante è atterrato da quelle parti. In un primo tempo nessuno riesce a dare una spiegazione plausibile a quello strano fenomeno. L'incertezza cresce e alimenta la fantasia: è la volta buona, sono davvero alieni.

I "ceri" alla Madonna scambiati per Ufo, cinque anni fa

Intorno alle 22, rinunciando persino alla domenica sportiva che trasmette i resoconti della prima di campionato, inizia la processione verso quelle luci. Tutti vogliono un incontro ravvicinato (di terzo, quarto o quinto tipo che sia).

E' un'occasione da non perdere: l'appuntamento con la storia è lassù e saranno in pochi a poter dire "io c'ero".

La delusione, lo "scoprir del vero" che uccide i sogni arriva poco dopo. I più lesti sono in cima al monte Teiolo poco prima di mezzanotte. Gli Ufo erano un gruppo di fedeli che si era recato sul monte, dove c'è una piccola cappella. *«Era la festa della Madonna* — spiegò il parroco di Murta — *e abbiamo acceso qualche torcia sul piazzale e sul tetto della cappella. Una luce era più forte delle altre, ma solo perchè abbiamo utilizzato un barattolo più capiente e dove abbiamo potuto mettere più petrolio»*.

Eppure centinaia di persone avevano giurato di aver visto quelle luci volteggiare nel cielo, alzarsi e poi atterrare di nuovo, proprio come un'astronave che sta cercando un punto adatto per l'atterraggio. A chi aveva raggiunto con il fiato in gola la vetta non è rimasto che commentare, con i tanti altri compagni d'avventura, tutte le fasi di una cocente disfatta. Quelle luci erano state accese per una processione. E la festa religiosa era stata perino annunciata con numerosi manifesti murali.

Da quell'episodio clamoroso, avvistamenti poi rivelatisi del tutto falsi e altri episodi rimasti comunque misteriosi, si sono susseguiti senza soluzione di continuità. Luci strane, oggetti ancora più misteriosi: l'elenco degli Ufo mancati e degli Ufo probabili (ma mai accertati) è lunghissimo anche a Genova, e il clamore che ha destato l'altro ieri il passaggio di un meteorite ricalca un copione ormai ampiamente sperimentato.

motore. Per il Siberia 1 può andare bene un variatore di frequenza. Occorre poi un cannocchiale di guida (o una guida fuori asse, meno consigliabile in questo caso) e un reticolo illuminato. Tutto il necessario può costare circa un milione di lire.

ANCORA SUI SATELLITI CON LA SCORTA

Avendo letto sul numero di gennaio dell'avvistamento di Adriano Ferrari, mi sono deciso ad inviarvi qualche altro elemento di giudizio sullo stesso fenomeno, che fino ad ora avevo considerato come un "incidente spaziale": se un frammento cosmico impattasse un veicolo orbitante, forse i pezzi staccatisi da esso si disporrebbero davanti perché meno frenati dagli strati più alti dell'atmosfera. È così?
Il "satellite" era di mag. –1 e forse era lo stesso che avevo scorto il 28 maggio, sempre da SW a NE, verso le ore 22 estive. A parte questo, ho provato ad inseguirlo con il telescopio ad ingrandimenti minimi ed ho osservato che alcuni degli oggetti che lo precedevano, avvantaggiati ciascuno di 10' o 15' sull'altro, pulsavano in maniera regolare, con "periodi" di pochi secondi, intorno alle mag. 7-8, come se ruotassero velocemente su se stessi.
Volevo infine aggiungere che in un'altra occasione mi è capitato di vedere satelliti inseguirsi: il 4 febbraio 1993 alle ore 6.26 un oggetto giallo di 3ª mag. era preceduto di 20' da uno di colore rossastro di 5ª mag.; viaggiavano verso E. Cosa potevano mai essere?

Simone Bolzoni
Busto Arsizio (VA)

Se un piccolo detrito cosmico impattasse un veicolo orbitante, i frammenti si disperderebbero un po' in tutte le direzioni, perché una navicella o un satellite non hanno una sufficiente forza di gravità per trattenerli intorno ad essi. Solo se il distacco è animato da una debole velocità i fammenti possono rimanere vicini.
Le pulsazioni sono senza dubbio sintomo di rotazione.
Gli oggetti che ha visto il 4 febbraio 1993 potevano essere satelliti vicini; fenomeno certamente inconsueto.

LA SUPER-POLARIS PER UN TELESCOPIO UNIVERSALE

Posseggo un telescopio riflettore Vixen 150 mm con montatura Super-Polaris (acquistato nel 1988): vorrei sapere se è possibile sostituire il solo tubo ottico con uno da 200 mm, mantenendo invariata la montatura e, se sì, quale tubo ottico mi consigliate al fine di ottenere un telescopio di tipo "universale".

Pierfrancesco Maruccio
Vibo Valentia

La montatura Super Polaris può reggere il tubo ottico di un riflettore da 20 cm. La Celestron, per esempio, ha utilizzato questa montatura della Vixen per una sua versione dello Schmidt-Cassegrain da 20 cm che, grazie alla sua compattezza, viene retto benissimo. Questo telescopio, per il suo rapporto d'apertura a f/10, può considerarsi "universale" e anche come tale consigliabile nel suo caso.
Un'ultima informazione: il divario tra un 15 ed un 20 cm non è grande; l'ideale sarebbe se lei potesse provare il 20 cm paragonandone la resa col suo 15 cm prima di procedere all'acquisto.

I PROBLEMI DI UN PALEO-ASTROFILO

Sono un "paleo-astrofilo" dei primi anni '70, risvegliato dopo anni di sonno dalla apparizione della cometa Hyakutake.
Mi sono attrezzato per le mie osservazioni con un telescopio rifrattore Pronto della TeleVue, che ho corredato con due oculari TeleVue Plössl da 40 e 17 mm, un ►►

Avvistamento di oggetti luminosi

Posso confermare l'avvistamento effettuato da Francesco Badalotti il 27/2/1997 ("Avvistamento di oggetti luminosi" pag. 12 n. 63). Il 2 febbraio alle 20.47 ho osservato, con un binocolo 10×50, una formazione a "w" di 15/20 punti luminosi (ritengo di 4°-5° mag.) che viaggiavano a una velocità circa doppia di un satellite in direzione sud. Facevano rapidi spostamenti ma senza rompere la formazione o allontanandosi dal loro posto all'interno della stessa (come ha spiegato l'astrofilo Badalotti nella sua lettera "... si sorpassavano vicendevolmente"). Guardando con il binocolo ho notato che gli oggetti luminosi avevano una forma leggermente ellittica, erano come avvolti in un alone che li offuscava, la luce emessa era fissa senza intermittenza e non giungeva a me alcun rumore. L'avvistamento è stato molto breve (poco più di trenta secondi), ma sono certo dell'affidabilità della mia descrizione.
Ho trascritto al computer quello che ho notato subito dopo l'avvistamento e quando ho letto la lettera sopracitata mi sono stupito delle similitudini con i miei appunti: così ho deciso di scrivere.
Colgo l'occasione per chiedervi quali oculari e accessori è preferibile acquistare per il Meade ETX tenuto conto dell'interesse principale: l'osservazione del profondo cielo.
Tra il rifrattore apocromatico Astro Physics 155 EDFS e il Meade ED APO 152 quale ha le ottiche più curate? E la meccanica? Potete indicarmene il prezzo?

Damiano Pietrobono
Bergamo

Prendiamo atto del suo avvistamento, che conferma quello di F. Badalotti.
Per il Meade ETX, già fornito di un Super Plössl da 26 mm, per l'osservazione del profondo cielo, consigliamo il 40 e il 12,4 mm dello stesso tipo. Inoltre, un filtro *deep-sky* e un buon paraluce.
Tra i due apocromatici che ha citato,

chi prima con l'esperienza di cosa sente più la mancanza. Consideri però che il Pictor, anche quando avrà un telescopio più impegnativo, rimane un ottimo strumento da portare con sé o da utilizzare come guida.
3) Nella sua città esiste il Gruppo Astrofili Nisseno, presso Antonino Ficarra, vicolo Garofalo 1, Caltanissetta.

SATELLITE ARTIFICIALE CON LA SCORTA?

Sono un socio dell'Associazione G.B. Amici di Modena. Vorrei avere una spiegazione su quello che in nove abbiamo osservato la sera del 6 giugno alle 23.30 circa dal nostro osservatorio situato a Serramazzoni di Modena.
Provenendo da S/O in direzione N/E vedemmo a occhio nudo uno dei tanti satelliti artificiali che sorvolano il cielo, ma una volta osservatolo al binocolo, ci siamo resi conto che in linea retta davanti a lui vi erano altri 10/15 punti meno luminosi che procedevano in linea alla stessa velocità.
Siamo rimasti stupiti da tale visione e visto che nessuno di noi è riuscito a dare una risposta plausibile, vorremmo sapere se vi è stato qualcun altro ad avere visto questo fenomeno o perlomeno a darci una spiegazione.

Adriano Ferrari
Modena

Proponiamo la domanda ai nostri lettori: qualcun altro ha visto questo fenomeno?
Una spiegazione appare effettivamente difficile. È improbabile che dal satellite si siano staccati dei frammenti e allo stesso tempo escludiamo un errore osservativo (riflessioni multiple tra le lenti), che sarebbe proponibile solo per un novizio.

SCOPERTO UN NUOVO PIANETA NELLO SPAZIO

Gli astronomi della Nasa hanno scoperto un nuovo pianeta, il quinto, in orbita intorno alla stella 55 Cancri, a 41 anni luce dalla Terra. Il pianeta è molto più grande della Terra. La scoperta fa ipotizzare l'esistenza di sistemi simili a quello solare e la possibilità di vita su altri pianeti.

7

Mercoledì
7
Novembre
2007

Ieri sera alle 20,30: numerosissime le segnalazioni

Un misterioso oggetto volante avvistato in tutta la provincia

Ha attraversato il cielo in direzione nord-ovest sud-est ed è stato visto anche all'aeroporto di Villafranca dove il radar non ha però registrato alcun segnale del corpo celeste

Un misterioso corpo luminoso ha attraversato i nostri cieli nella serata di ieri attirando l'attenzione di centinaia di persone che non hanno mancato di tempestare di telefonate il centralino del nostro giornale.

Gli avvistamenti dell'oggetto misterioso sono iniziati nella nostra provincia intorno alle 20,20.

In precedenza era stato visto nel cielo di Mantova, poi su Verona, su tutta la zona del lago e poi, via via, su Vicenza, Padova e Ferrara. Seguiva dunque una rotta nord ovest-sud est e si muoveva rapidamente, emanando una luce verdastra, mantenendosi ad una quota costante rispetto al terreno.

Difficile dire con esattezza quale fosse la sua forma apparente.

Le testimonianze discordano. Secondo alcuni aveva una forma cilindrica, secondo altri sferica. Molti hanno assicurato che non emetteva rumori di sorta, mentre qualcuno ha detto di aver avvertito al suo passaggio una specie di «sgrigollo».

Altri ancora dicono che la luce emanata dal corpo celeste era cangiante e che si prolungava in «una scia ondeggiante come quella di una cometa», il tutto accompagnato da un sibilo abbastanza acuto. Infine alcuni dicono che dopo il passaggio nel proprio campo visivo l'apparizione sembra essersi «disintegrata» nell'aria.

Oltre che al nostro giornale, moltissime sono state le telefonate alla polizia, ai carabinieri e perfino ai vigili del fuoco per avere spiegazioni (che ovviamente non è stato possibile dare) circa la natura del singolare fenomeno.

Le attrezzature radar dell'aeroporto militare di Villafranca non hanno registrato alcun segnale del passaggio del corpo misterioso, mentre il capitano Giaretta, che era in servizio, ha dichiarato che alcuni suoi colleghi hanno visto anch'essi, ad occhio nudo, il passaggio del corpo sconosciuto.

Uguale situazione al centro controllo di volo di Abano. Anche lì i radar non hanno visto nulla, ma molte persone sì.

I piloti in volo nella zona nel momento dei molteplici avvistamenti, interpellati da terra hanno assicurato di non aver notato alcunchè di anormale. Dal canto loro i comandi militari hanno reso noto ché nella serata non erano in corso esercitazioni di alcun tipo.

L'ipotesi che possa essersi trattato di un pallone sonda di passaggio negli altissimi strati dell'atmosfera viene scartata dai più perchè la luce misteriosa sembrava, almeno apparentemente, navigare a quota non eccessivamente elevata.

Il mistero, dunque, rimane e va ad aggiungersi ai moltissimi altri casi analoghi rimasti senza risposta attraverso gli anni.

Moltissimi occhi lo hanno visto solcare il cielo della nostra provincia

Un bolide venuto dallo spazio il misterioso oggetto volante

«Si tratta cioè - spiega Luciano Lai, un astrofilo che l'ha potuto vedere dal suo osservatorio astronomico - di una grossa stella cadente»
Un «sasso» di 4 centimetri che viaggiava a 50 chilometri al secondo

(M. P.) - Luce intensa, forma affusolata, colore verde brillante in punta e bianco in coda, veloce come il pensiero: è questo l'identikit dell'oggetto misterioso che mercoledì notte ha solcato il cielo di Verona ed è stato visto da centinaia e centinaia di persone dalla punta del lago ai paesi della Bassa.

Si conoscono l'ora esatta del passaggio, le 22.16, la direzione, da nord-ovest a sud-est, e la durata del passaggio: 12 secondi circa. Ora, direzione e durata del fenomeno sono stati confermati dai numerosi osservatori occasionali che hanno tempestato di telefonate la nostra redazione e da alcuni astrofili.

Ma cos'era quella «freccia» luminosa che ci è passata sulle teste? Secondo Luciano Lai, un astrofilo veronese (abita in via Mantovana a S. Lucia) che al momento del fenomeno si trovava nel suo osservatorio astronomico sulle colline di Cavriana, si è trattato di un "bolide".

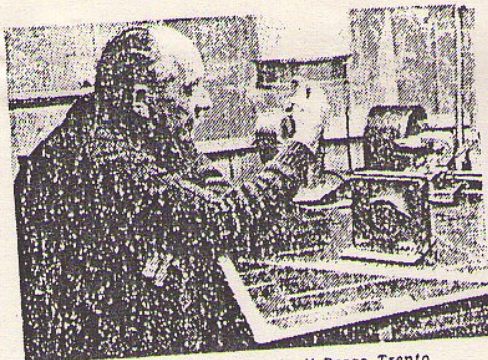
«Il bolide — spiega — è una grossa stella cadente. La nostra Terra ha intercettato l'orbita di un corpuscolo simile ad un sasso di 3-4 centimetri di dimensione. La forza di gravità del nostro pianeta ha attirato inesorabilmente il meteorite che è piombato verso la nostra superficie con una velocità di 50 chilometri al secondo. L'incontro con la nostra atmosfera ha agito da "freno". L'attrito ha sprigionato una temperatura di oltre tremila gradi che ha reso incandescente il corpo celeste. Le particelle del meteorite sono passate dallo stato solido a quello gassoso e, proiettate nello spazio circostante, hanno reso incandescente l'aria rendendosi visibili a centinaia di chilometri di distanza. Dov'è terminata la folle corsa? Difficile dirlo. Normalmente dopo 100-200 chilometri l'intero corpo si volatizza e nulla rimane».

Testimoni del fenomeno sono stati anche parecchi ufficiali e sottufficiali del 3° Stormo di Villafranca in servizio sulla torre di controllo o al radar della base. «La visione è stata nitida — ha detto uno di loro — è durata qualche secondo. Più di quanto dura una stella cadente: tanto che sono riuscito, stavolta, ad esprimere un desiderio. Aveva la traiettoria tesa, di un corpo in disintegrazione: il classico meteorite che si disintegra al contatto con gli strati densi dell'atmosfera».

Nessun segno sul radar e nessun incontro ravvicinato da parte di qualche aereo in volo: i piloti della base di Villafranca erano tutti a terra e il primo volo civile dopo l'avvistamento, è stato quello dell'Alitalia proveniente da Roma e atterrato sulla pista del Catullo alle 22.35, quando tutto era finito.

Il parere di due esperti abituati a scrutare la volta celeste

«Ma poteva anche trattarsi d'un frammento di satellite»

È l'opinione di Roberto Toledano che non esclude, comunque, l'ipotesi del meteorite «Anche se - dice - di solito questo ha luce rossiccia»

Arnaldo Begalli, dell'osservatorio di Borgo Trento

L'astrofilo Roberto Toledano (foto Malagutti)

L'uno scruta il cielo per professione, l'altro per passione. Entrambi, quindi, hanno gli occhi ben allenati a distinguere le diverse luci che accendono, di notte, la volta celeste. Era quasi impossibile, dunque, che l'oggetto volante passato l'altra notte nel cielo di Verona sfuggisse alla loro attenzione.

Arnaldo Begalli, direttore dell'osservatorio di borgo Trento, l'ha visto addirittura da un... palcoscenico. Come se avesse avuto un presentimento si trovava in alta montagna. «Ero a 1300 metri di quota — racconta — vicino al Corno d'Aquilio. Stavo osservando con altri amici i satelliti in cielo. Un cielo reso pulito dal passaggio di un temporale. In quel momento, le 22,16 (la temperatura era di 9 gradi, lo so perchè l'avevo appena controllata sul termometro che avevo portato con me) ecco passare a grande velocità un oggetto molto luminoso. Sembrava una cometa. In sessant'anni non ho mai visto niente del genere. Era bianco e, in punta, verde-azzurro. Se dovessi paragonarlo a qualcosa direi che ricordava la fiamma di una saldatrice. Aveva una direzione nord-ovest sud-est. Cos'era? Un meteorite senz'altro. Si vedeva chiaramente che si consumava nell'aria. Era accompagnato anche da un fruscio. Può darsi che sia uscito dall'atmosfera. Poco prima avevamo visto un'altra stella cadente, ma molto più piccola. Quella lì, invece, ha dato spettacolo. Ero entusiasta, mi ha dato una soddisfazione enorme».

Per Roberto Toledano, appassionato astronomo, collaboratore del nostro giornale, poteva anche trattarsi di un satellite fuori orbita. «L'oggetto è sfrecciato basso e velocissimo — dice —. Non doveva essere un meteorite che di solito è di colore rossiccio. Ma c'è da dire che il colore varia a seconda della dimensione. Oltretutto, come meteorite sarebbe stato fuori zona e fuori tempo. Per questo penso ad un oggetto di natura umana: un grosso pezzo di satellite. E non c'è da meravigliarsi: abbiamo migliaia di satelliti sulla testa e ogni tanto qualcuno vien giù in pezzi. Anche il colore, verde-bianco, è quello tipico di un satellite in quota. La velocità, poi, è proporzionale alla distanza dalla terra: quanto più è vicino tanto più è veloce. La luce costante, la velocità stabile mi hanno fatto pensare che fosse in avvicinamento, ma è impossibile dire dov'è finito. Ho sentito alla radio che è stato visto anche a Firenze e a Siena. Comunque doveva trattarsi di qualcosa di grosso: è vero che basta un meteorite di un grammo per fare una luce apprezzabile ma qui ci trovavamo in presenza di qualcosa di molto più grosso, più grande di una normale stella cadente».

Pallone infuocato sul cielo della città

C'è anche un rosatese che a Bassano, assieme ad altre persone ha avvistato nel cielo poco dopo le 22 dell'altra sera una luce misteriosa in movimento da nord a sud. Si tratta di Camillo Martini, 49 anni, titolare del negozio di generi alimentari in località Baggi. «Poco dopo le 22 — ha affermato — mi trovavo assieme a mio figlio Damiano, 14 anni, alla cognata Maria Dalla Valle, 54 anni, nell'appartamento di quest'ultima in via Piave a Bassano, al secondo piano di un condominio che ha un'ottima visuale lungo la vallata del Brenta. Dal terrazzo ad un certo punto abbiamo potuto notare un pallone infuocato all'altezza dell'orizzonte, seguito da una scia di un paio di metri. In corrispondenza del ponte Nuovo, l'oggetto misterioso diretto da nord a sud con velocità regolare ha calato d'intensità, assumendo una tonalità più spenta. Assieme al figlio ed alla cognata ho avuto modo di seguire il fenomeno per alcuni secondi».

UFO ESTIVI

Un oggetto proveniente dalle profondità dello spazio ha solcato il cielo di Reggio
L'affascinante spettacolo ha fatto gridare molti all'Ufo: ma era solo una grossa meteora

Un bolide tra le stelle d'agosto

Un oggetto luminoso, con una scia del colore della fiamma ossidrica, ha attraversato il cielo di Reggio mercoledì sera, silenziosamente, per oltre una decina di secondi. C'è chi lo ha visto verde, chi azzurro, chi arancione, e chi ha parlato di Ufo. Gli astronomi sono concordi: era una grossa «stella cadente», normale in questo periodo, più precisamente, un «bolide».

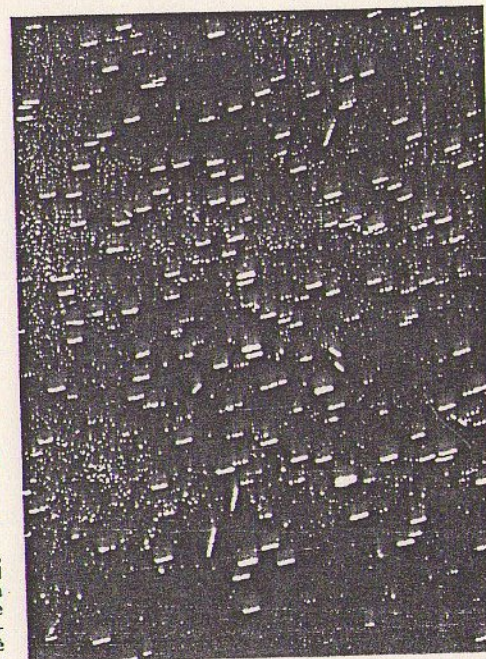
OTELLO INCERTI

Direzione approsimativa nord-sud, luminosissimo, grandezza apparente di circa un quinto inferiore a quella della luna piena, una vivida scia luminosa dietro di sè, un oggetto celeste ha attraversato il cielo della provincia, alle 22.15 di mercoledì sera, mettendo in subbuglio e in estasi le centinaia di persone che ne hanno seguito l'affascinante traiettoria. In estasi perché lo spettacolo è stato grandioso; in subbuglio perché molti, in base anche ad alcuni articoli su Ufo apparsi nei giorni precedenti, hanno pensato a un disco volante. Ma, andando a prestito dall'«Amleto» di Shakespeare, bisogna dire che «ci sono molte più cose, tra la terra e il cielo, di quante non ne contempli la tua filosofia». Non tutto ciò che solca il cielo è necessariamente un Ufo: ci sono anche le meteore, specie in questo periodo delle popolari «stelle cadenti».

Le descrizioni del fenomeno, notato in tutta l'Italia settentrionale, e fino in Toscana, sono concordi (al di là di qualche aggiunta di fantasia), nel dipingere gli effetti di una meteora che gli astronomi catalogano come «bolide». In pratica, un «sasso» spaziale, più grosso delle normali «stelle cadenti» (che non sono poi stelle, ma semplicemente sassolini che si arroventano, si fondono e si vaporizzano nell'attrito con l'atmosfera terrestre). Questi corpi celesti sono come una nuvola che gira attorno al sole (forse residui di una antica cometa) e incocciano nell'orbita terrestre due volte all'anno: in agosto (punta media massima il 12, da qui la leggenda della notte di S. Lorenzo, che è il 10: ma in realtà il fenomeno dura diversi giorni) e in novembre, quando, almeno alle nostre latitudini, nessuno vede il fenomeno per le condizioni meteorologiche.

Quello di mercoledì sera è stato un «sasso» di dimensioni evidentemente eccezionali. Chi lo ha visto dalla pianura orientale lo ha percepito basso sull'orizzonte, verso Parma, ma è difficile stabilire la sua effettiva quota: doveva comunque essere nell'ordine delle decine e decine di chilometri. Il signor Emo Boni, uno dei famosi «roulottisti di Febbio», esperto della zona e perciò in grado di descrivere con attendibile precisione il fenomeno, ci ha detto che il corpo luminoso era inclinato sull'orizzonte, verso ovest, di circa 60 gradi. Lo si è visto per oltre una decina di secondi. Il comandante dell'osservatorio meteorologico del Monte Cimone, uno che per mestiere deve essere molto preciso, ci ha descritto le stesse caratteristiche di durata, direzione e inclinazione sull'orizzonte. Nessun radar ha però segnalato il «bolide»: così ci è stato detto da un ufficiale dell'aeronautica militare.

Questi bolidi, in effetti, «viaggiano» a quote molte alte, e scendono soltanto se l'attrito con l'atmosfera li frena a tal punto da fare precipitare loro residui sulla terra. Non ci sono, per il momento, segnalazioni di impatti. Del resto, c'è un famoso precedente: il 10 agosto 1972 un «bolide», in una decina di secondi, sorvolò, in pieno giorno, gli stati americani del Montana, dello Wyoming, dell'Utah, senza precipitare: rimbalzò nel vuoto cosmico, dopo l'attrito con l'atmosfera, sperdendosi nel buio siderale. Quello, è stato calcolato, aveva un diametro di circa 30 metri. Questo potrebbe essersi comportato nello stesso modo, a meno che non si sia totalmente polverizzato nell'atmosfera.

Se ne avete voglia, provate, in queste sere, ad osservare il cielo, possibilmente da una località di montagna. Vedrete certamente molte «stelle cadenti» e potrebbe, anche se è molto difficile, ripassare qualche altro «bolide». Non gridate però all'Ufo!

Sciame di stelle cadenti

La Notte
Giovedì 18 agosto 1988

MIGLIAIA DI PERSONE STANOTTE HANNO VISTO UN OGGETTO LUMINOSO

Un Ufo infuocato nel cielo di Milano

Secondo alcuni aveva una forma ellittica e si muoveva molto lentamente

«Aveva la forma di una sigaretta e si muoveva trasversalmente in direzione nrd ovest-sud est, cioè grosso modo sull'asse Valle d'Aosta-Venezia»: questa è una delle testimonianze più complete ed attendibili che abbiamo raccolto sul misterioso oggetto che ha attraversato ieri sera il cielo della Lombardia e che è stato visto da migliaia di milanesi. E' di un astrofilo, Massimo Brisighella, abitante alla Barona in viale Faenza 21.

La testimonianza di Massimo Brisighella è tanto più preziosa, in quanto l'astrofilo è un insegnante di elettronica in un Itis.

Ma ecco il racconto del professor Brisighella: *«Erano circa le 22,25. Io mi trovavo alla finestra (abito al sesto piano). Da casa mia le luci della strada non danno molto fastidio, tanto che si vedono le stelle. Ebbene, alle 22,25 di ieri sera una luce intensa mi ha costretto ad alzare lo sguardo ed ho visto questo oggetto che aveva, per l'appunto, la forma di una sigaretta e che si muoveva piuttosto lentamente ed orizzontalmente. Lentamente, intendiamoci, se paragonato alla velocità di un meteorite. Dietro, una scia luminosissima con pennacchi verdastri ai lati che diventavano rossastri verso il centro. Il resto della scia, poi, era bianco»*.

- Quanto era grande? Abbiamo chiesto.

«Quindici primi, cioè circa metà della luna. La scia, invece, misurava circa tre primi».

- Quanto è durato il fenomeno?

«Un paio di secondi. Il tempo sufficiente per coprire la distanza dalla mia testa all'orizzonte. La scia è rimasta visibile per circa metà del percorso».

- E poi?

«E poi è scomparso. Cioè, non è scomparso oltre la linea dell'orizzonte: è come se si fosse consumato o spento.»

- Mi parli della scia...

«Era molto luminosa e molto lunga ed era larga circa un terzo della larghezza della luna».

-Quali ipotesi può fare su questo fenomeno?

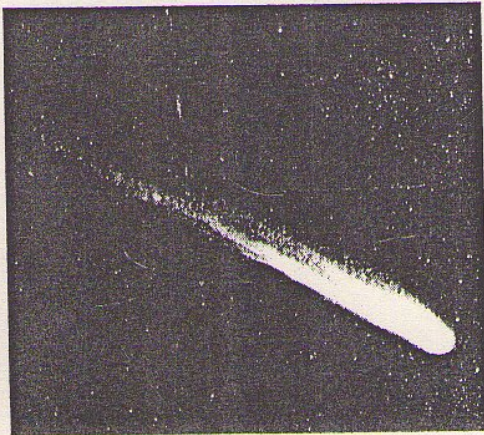
«Non ho un'idea precisa. Se si fosse trattato di un qualcosa creato dall'uomo, chessò, di un satellite visto nel momento del suo rientro nell'atmosfera, non credo che sarebbe stato un unico pezzo. Il satellite infatti si sarebbe frantumato in diversi frammenti».

-Avrebbe potuto trattarsi di un meteorite?

«Non credo. Non credo perchè si muoveva orizzontalmente e troppo lentamente per sembrare un corpo in caduta libera».

L'ufo è stato visto, come abbiamo detto, da moltissime persone. Tra queste anche da una giornalista de «La Notte», Franca Morotti che nel momento in cui quell'oggetto transitava sulle nostre teste si trovava in un appartamento sito al quattordicesimo piano di via Ceva 27 alla Bovisasca.

«Avevo bagnato delle piante sul terrazzo e mi ero seduta guardando il cielo in attesa di un refolo d'aria, quando improvvisamente ho visto in alto un bagliore luminoso come una lampadina, di forma ovale. Il bagliore poi è diventato più forte tanto che ho creduto si trattasse di un razzo lanciato da qualche ragazzino. Quell'oggetto si muoveva lentamente. Quindi è sceso assumendo una forma più allungata, direi ellittica, mentre sulla coda si formava una scia verde-azzurrognola luminosissima. Poi si è spento. Cioè non è scomparso oltre l'orizonte. E' come se si fosse spento. Tutto è durato una decina di secondi».

Di qualunque cosa si sia trattato, questo qualcosa ha eluso i nostri radar. Dal comando della Regione aerea infatti ci è stato detto che i radar difesa non hanno rilevato nulla di anormale. A questo punto la fantasia può sbrigliarsi enunciando tutte le ipotesi: da qualla di un velivolo ultraterrestre capace di eludere i sistemi radar, a quella di un pallone sonda che ha riflesso i raggi solari.

IL GAZZETTINO

Venerdì 19 agosto 1988

Segnalato nel cielo un oggetto volante

Con questo caldo arriva pure l'Ufo

Anche quest'anno i venusiani hanno fatto la loro scappatella nel Bel Paese. Non si sono fermati di fronte alle alghe in putrefazione. E si sono fatti pure un baffo dei limiti di velocità. Correvano come pazzi, altrochè. E, comunque, avevano tutte le loro belle e regolamentari luci di posizione accese.

«Era un oggetto immenso, ovoidale. Sembrava un grande neon fluorescente di colore giallo. Correva velocissimo sull'orizzonte. Poi è sparito in una luce bianca. All'improvviso» - hanno detto i testimoni.

L'Ufo - come altro si può definire un tubo al neon che corre come un pazzo per il cielo fregandosene dei poveri turisti intruppati nelle code del rientro? - è stato segnalato sopra la Gazzera da almeno cinque persone verso le 22.30 dell'altra sera.

Altre, poco dopo, hanno visto lo stesso oggetto luminoso sopra Sottomarina. Prima l'allarme era scattato a Vicenza e sul Lago di Garda.

Evidentemente i venusiani erano alla disperata ricerca di un posto per fare il bagno. Le alghe devono aver messo paura anche agli alieni che sopra Sottomarina hanno fatto una conversione ad «U» sparendo in una nube bianca.

L'incontro ravvicinato del secondo tipo è stato segnalato da tantissime persone, il che esclude nel modo più assoluto l'allucinazione collettiva e anche qualche gomito troppo alto.

I radar degli aeroporti non hanno rilevato nulla, in compenso secondo gli esperti dell'osservatorio asrronomico di Asiago si tratterebbe di una grossa meteora che traccia una scia di colore verde-azzurro. Talvolta la meteorite può produrre anche effetti sonori, dicono.

Mah, sarà...

Tutti col naso all'insù ma l'Ufo non dà il bis

Proprio alla psicosi dell'Ufo non si è ancora arrivati, ma certamente dopo le notizie apparse sui giornali dell'avvistamento di un oggetto volante non identificato, in tanti si sono messi a scrutare il cielo nella speranza di vedere qualcosa di inusuale.

Favorita l'operazione «stelle e affini a setaccio» anche dall'afa che in questi giorni costringe all'insonnia e invita quindi ai più imprevedibili passatempi in attesa di un po' di brezza verso mattina. Purtroppo, però, il «bolide», la meteora vagante spuntata dal nulla mercoledì non ha concesso il bis con le sue luci rosso-verdi

Ciò nonostante, molti apprendisti astronomi si sono dilettati ancora a scrutare le tenebre, magari limitandosi a riportare a galla nozioni scolastiche per individuare questa o quella Orsa o, più semplicemente, per dare il nome ad almeno un paio di stelle. E maledicendo il programma tivù che la sera della grande apparizione li aveva privati di.: uno spettacolo che, se proprio unico non è, certamente non è nemmeno molto frequente.

Tra i tanti rimasti con il naso all'insù, merita menzione la signora Gisella Rossi che, da un balcone di Casatenovo, al confine tra le province di Como e Milano, dice di aver notato in cielo qualcosa che non assomigliava né a una stella né a un aereo. Dalle 23 alle 3.30 della notte tra giovedì e ieri, l'oggetto misterioso, di un giallo abbagliante — riferisce la signora — si è mosso lentamente nel cielo piroettando adagio come in una danza.

Visto il momento... favorevole, da Torino il «Centro italiano studi ufologici» invita tutti gli avvistatori a mettersi in contatto con la sua segreteria: allo 011-32.90.279.

ALTO ADIGE
VENERDÌ 19 AGOSTO 1988

Cronaca di Riva e Arco

ALTRO OGGETTO MISTERIOSO

E.T. viaggia in torpedone?

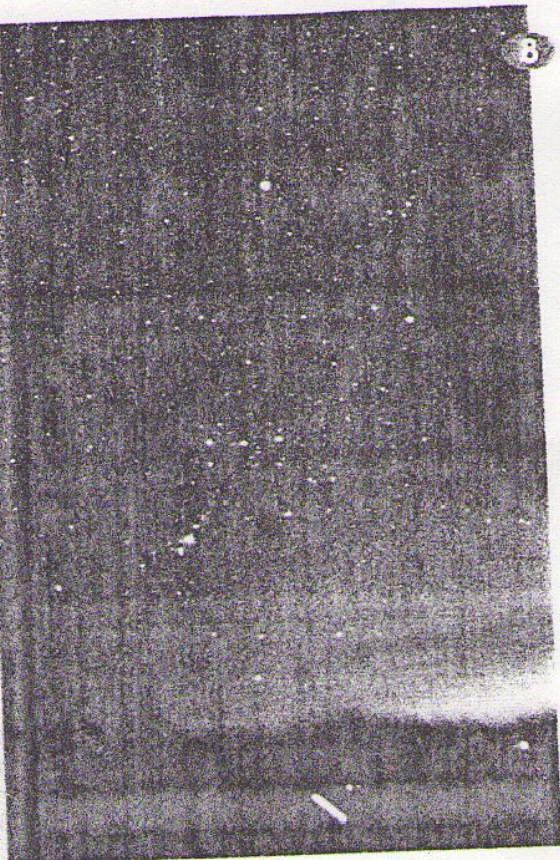
Visto da molti mercoledì sera

Ufo o aggeggio di produzione umana? Ancora una volta il solito interrogativo, che con ogni probabilità rimarrà senza risposta. Di certo si sa che molte persone hanno avvistato mercoledì sera, verso le 22.30, un oggetto volante, luminoso, assomigliante ad un torpedone. Viaggiava sopra il lago di Garda, in direzione sud-est. Chi ne fa una descrizione minuziosa è il geometra Onorio Munari, residente a Bolzano, ma in questi giorni in soggiorno sul lago. L'altra sera si trovava seduto a riva, a circa due chilometri da Torbole, e si accingeva a pescare quando quella cosa ha attirato la sua attenzione: una linea nera, che ricordava la parte inferiore di un autobus, procedeva obliqua, pareva bruciare, ma la sua luce non abbagliava, produceva invece uno strascico di scintille. Le fronde degli alberi gli hanno impedito di seguire oltre il misterioso torpedone e di vederlo scomparire all' orizzonte o dietro qualche profilo montuoso.

Occhio, dunque, alla volta celeste: non si sa mai, può darsi che anche gli extraterrestri abbiano scelto il lago di Garda per le loro gite turistiche di massa.

Avvistata la meteora

Anche a Fidenza numerose persone hanno avvistato la splendida meteora che mercoledì sera ha solcato i cieli dell'Italia settentrionale tracciando una lunga scia luminosa: uno spettacolo davvero straordinario che ha suscitato orpresa ed emozione nei fortunati spettatori.

AGOSTO 97

ha colpito un canalone lungo circa 150 km che tagliava in due le Alpi lunari, talmente dritto che sembrava artificiale. Come si è formato?

Alberto Berardi
Bellaria (RN)

1) Il tubo dello strumento si può escludere ponendo un distanziatore, praticamente una staffa, sulla culla.
La montatura del Celestron 114 può reggere un piccolo contrappeso extra.
2) A parte l'inconveniente del tubo, le foto sono interessanti.
Purtroppo – e la cosa si è verificata anche con altri lettori – la foto della cometa è stata rovinata dalla colla della busta; pertanto, non è stato possibile pubblicarla. Quando inviate delle foto, fate in modo da isolarle, anche una dall'altra (alcune giungono con i segni lasciati dalle scritte presenti nel retro di altre).
3) Il "canalone" di cui parla è la famosa "Vallata delle Alpi" visibile a sinistra nella **Figura 9**, tratta dal nostro *Atlante Fotografico della Luna* (tav. 17). Nel passato si credeva che fosse stata formata da un asteroide che avrebbe colpito di striscio la Luna, ma oggi sappiamo che la sua origine è differente: si tratta di un corrugamento subito dalla crosta lunare durante il suo raffreddamento.

Avvistamento di oggetti luminosi

Il 27 febbraio 1997 in una serata particolarmente limpida, dal mio balcone esposto a sud al quarto piano di un palazzo, alle ore solari 20.43 improvvisamente notai che un gruppo di circa 15/20 oggetti dalla apparente forma circolare attraversò molto rapidamente il cielo proveniente da ovest e diretto verso est frapponendosi fra me e le Pleiadi. In quel momento stavo osservando senza strumentazione le costellazioni del Toro ed Orione alte in cielo e contemporaneamente all'avvistamento decisi di sfruttare quei pochi istanti al fine di cogliere dettagli che potessero spiegare tale fenomeno, consapevole che se fossi corso a prendere il binocolo avrei certamente perso momenti preziosi. Questi oggetti emettevano una luminosità molto moderata, quasi giallastra, in netto contrasto con le stelle che scintillavano sullo sfondo scuro del cielo. Procedevano ad alta velocità (ma non eccessivamente) in gruppo. Ebbi modo di notare che alcuni di questi "oggetti" si sorpassavano vicendevolmente. Dopo circa 10 minuti, alle ore 20.54, notai un altro gruppo composto da 5 di questi strani oggetti con le medesime caratteristiche dei precedenti. Posso affermare con sicurezza di non avere udito nessun rumore; inoltre, la loro luminosità era a carattere fisso e non erano visibili luci ad intermittenza. Per quanto mi è stato possibile ho cercato di descrivere il fenomeno osservato in attesa che venga o meno confermato da altri astrofili.

Francesco Badalotti
Cremona

Non è davvero facile dare un'indicazione plausibile su ciò che ha osservato; l'unica indicazione certa è che gli "oggetti" si trovavano relativamente vicini a lei. Sia meteoroidi (tipo le Cirillidi) che frammenti di un razzo non giustificano esattamente quanto ha visto. D'altra parte fenomeni di ionizzazione ne atmosfera manifestano moviment golari, non di rado "a zig-zag".
In attesa di cercare una spiegazion vincente, giriamo la domanda ai l qualcun altro ha osservato questi ti luminosi?

Come realizzare un telesco binoculare

Ho acquistato da pochi mesi uno sdop binoculare della ditta COMA dopo a con molto interesse un vostro articolo r a questi costosi accessori. La resa sugl planetari e sulle stelle doppie è stata fi addirittura eccellente, decisamente al delle aspettative, con un netto aum contrasto. Purtroppo, però, la perdita gnitudine è sensibile, circa di 1.5, il che ca che non è adatto per l'osservazione d getti deboli. Avevo pensato, così, di ac un binocolo gigante per la contempla nebulose e galassie, ma ho subito fatto indietro quando sono venuto a conosc prezzi, davvero troppo elevati per le m A questo punto, l'unica soluzione quella di affiancare un secondo tubo quello già in mio possesso e collegar celle un dispositivo ottico tipo quello comuni binocoli, che permetta di ca piacimento le coppie di oculari, tras quindi il mio C8 in un telescopio bi adatto a qualsiasi tipo di oasservazion lo stesso sistema usato dal Sig. Edo I spiegato molto bene nel suo articolo Maksutov", che ho avuto modo di le numero di ottobre 1995. Mi piacereb da voi, se tutto questo è realmente f

Looking for:

The next world

Two pleasant, middle-aged Texans and an eager flock of converts prepare for a one-way trip by U.F.O. to the 'next level above human.'

By James S. Phelan

Flying-saucer tales long ago ceased to be news. Just when the great U.F.O. fever began to wane cannot be pinpointed precisely, but it was somewhere around the time when a West Coast housewife told an inquiring reporter: "I don't understand all this excitement about flying saucers. Why, they come through our backyard all the time."

Which underscores the extraordinary nature of a story that filtered out of Oregon last October. It made the national news wires, a full page in Newsweek and on Oct. 8 was relayed to millions of CBS news watchers by Walter Cronkite.

"A score of persons from a small Oregon town have disappeared," said Mr. Cronkite. "It's a mystery whether they've been taken on a so-called trip to eternity . . . or simply been taken. Terry Drinkwater takes a look at that story."

Stationed before the Oregon motel where the mystery had briefly incubated, Drinkwater intoned: "Rocket ships from outer space; Buck Rogers fantasy—or is it? Today there is a group of earthlings who believe they're on their way to a rendezvous with such a ship for a trip to the unknown. Here along the cloud-covered coast near Newport, Ore., a mysterious couple appeared three weeks ago, circulating a flier proclaiming a U.F.O. would soon be ready to take whoever would follow them to another life, another world. They held meetings, one at this motel, to recruit voyagers." Drinkwater quoted a local newsman as saying the vanished people "gave away everything, including kids, all of their material belongings—property, automobiles, boats and money, and just left." He concluded: "Twenty or more faithful are now apparently headed for the lonely prairie of eastern Colorado."

Neither CBS nor Newsweek identified the two recruiters for a one-way voyage off this planet, although Newsweek noted that they referred to themselves as Bo and Peep. Thereafter, their wandering flock was reported in fragmentary newspaper accounts throughout the West and Midwest, sometimes with Bo and Peep and sometimes untended. Then several months ago, Bo and Peep dropped—or rose—out of sight, or at least out of the newspapers.

By a process too Byzantine to relate, involving weeks of interrogating their West Coast followers and the assistance of intermediaries, this writer finally located the space shepherds, and they agreed to an interview, in Little Rock, Ark., on their motives, progress and difficulties in getting off this planet.

The Two, as their followers refer to them, proved to be a pair of middle-aged Texans. Bo, a soft-spoken, highly articulate man of 44, was born Marshall Herff Applewhite. Peep is a matronly woman of 48, the former Mrs. Bonnie Lu Trousdale Nettles. (In the interview they referred to each other as Bo and Peep.) They were wearing slacks and windbreakers and, except for Bo's distinctive thatch of near-white hair worn in a "with it," over-the-ears cut, they looked more like a pleasant suburban couple-next-door than creatures from a distant galaxy.

They have none of the hallmarks of fanatics. They explained their bizarre project patiently and with flashes of humor, while sipping Coca-Colas. Bo did most of the talking, emphasizing key words effectively, like an experienced network anchorman. While Peep said little, it was plain that their relationship is that of co-equals. Occasionally she would correct him. "That could be taken out of context," she warned several times, and Bo would rephrase his comment. She has a distinctly Texan twang. "I've not wholly overcome the state of Texas," she said, which turned out to be an inside joke.

They talked about their earthly mission for several hours, while a bespectacled follower tape-recorded their words in the interest of accuracy. No one has left the planet yet. There have been "misunderstandings" that have caused some defections. But new converts continue to flock in. Their message is now being spread largely by devout followers. The converts engage in something called the Process, which entails seemingly aimless wandering in pairs and small groups, mostly from one public campsite to another. They spend their time in four activities: communing with "those in the next level" or outer space, "overcoming" their human attachments, soliciting small sums of money to live on and seeking new converts.

Recently, the followers have held briefing sessions to spread the message in California, Florida, New England, Texas, Oklahoma and Minnesota. The Two do not keep in close touch with their flock. They were delighted to learn from this reporter that a recent San Francisco meeting that he attended had drawn a standing-room-only crowd of more than 700, and that a San Diego briefing had filled a college lecture hall to capacity. The Two say they don't conduct any census of their converts, but their follow- *(Continued on Page 58)*

James S. Phelan is a writer who lives in U. F. O. country on the West Coast.

plants flourish," Pir Vilayat Khan said.

It was back to biology with the appearance of Lewis Thomas, whose tweedy, Ivy-Leaguish propriety (he has degrees from Yale, Harvard and Princeton) was somehow at variance with his unconventional ideas. Thomas was a respected member of the medical establishment. He had been dean of the New York University and Yale schools of medicine, and was now president of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The list of his official publications was 15 pages long. His book, "The Lives of a Cell," had won a 1975 National Book Award. Newsweek had dubbed him "the Boswell of the organelles." Puffing happily on a pipe in the large conference room where smoking was prohibited, Thomas offered some radical thoughts on disease and death.

Disease, in Thomas's view, is not caused by the germs that invade our bodies but by an overreaction of our defense mechanisms. There was, for example, a microorganism that carried epidemic meningitis. It swept over the population of entire cities. The odd thing was that although the meningococci infected thousands, cases of actual meningitis were extremely rare. Most people got off with a sore throat. What looked like a virus killing us off was really an overreaction of the body's defense mechanisms. The disease was not the result of the virus, but of the host's disproportionate response to the virus. Even leprosy and syphilis, Thomas said, were caused in part by the immunological responses of the host to the microbe. There was no straightforward predator-prey relation in human disease. It was simply that our arsenal of defense was too powerful. "I think it is likely that many of our diseases work in this way," Thomas has written in "The Lives of a Cell." "We are, in effect, at the mercy of our Pentagons, most of the time."

Perhaps societies function in similar ways, he suggested. Nations might be destroyed, not by any external threat, but by their own exaggerated military buildups and overreactions. We are encircled and endangered by our own strategems.

While germs are not a direct cause of death, Thomas went on, there are other forms of death, long considered superstitions, that are now found to have a scientific basis, such as death by bad news. So-called primitive societies know that there is such a thing as death by hex or bone-pointing. Someone is told he is going to die and proceeds to do so. In the same way, it happens that a vigorous man, informed that he has terminal cancer, becomes withdrawn and apathetic and within weeks dies without apparent reason—death by bad news.

Thomas said that in a recent study done on rats, their whiskers were clipped and they were placed in water. Normally, a rat in water swims for about 72 hours. The rats with clipped whiskers sank like stones. The combined bad news of a bath and a shave was enough to kill them. But if they were rescued and revived and put back in the water, they were able to swim like normal rats—the rescue broke the hex. Thomas seemed to be saying that in these uncertain times, there might be more to fear from bad news than from microbes.

In his wrapup, Thompson said we have to act fast, before the bad news of the demise of industrial society kills us all. We have to get away from machine technology to models like New Alchemy, and we have to give the third world countries a better example, and stop them from making Chicagos out of Teherans.

What would come from all this? For a week we had sat there like Strasbourg geese, force-fed ideas until our minds were ready to burst. Perhaps, in the pre-revolutionary coffee-house period Thompson said we were in, some of these ideas might slowly filter down, like Tennessee whisky through charcoal, into the densely-packed minds of policy-makers. Bateson had written: "I suggest to you that we should trust no policy decisions from persons who do not have the habit" of seeing themselves in relation to their ecological system. "I don't think I'm going to tell Jerry Brown how to run the state of California," Bateson added at the conference, "but I do think there are tools on how to perceive that he could use." Perhaps these men were only dreamers coordinating their dreams. Perhaps they were the kind of men the anthropologist A.F.C. Wallace had written about, who help reformulate the traditional path when a culture is in a period of extreme stress. ■

The New Alchemists' greenhouse: putting nature's strategies to work in a 50-by-50-foot space.

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body, the Two declare. And in their reconstituted bodies, the converts will enter a real spacecraft and go physically up to the next level.

"You don't go up to heaven and float around in a spirit form," Bo says firmly. On other details about life in outer space, the Two are not very specific. They say they have been gone for so long that many of the details are dim. Besides, the next level is difficult for a human to comprehend. But there is one aspect of the next level that they are explicit about. There are a lot of spacecraft up there. "It is a misguided religious concept that members in the real heaven do not use transportation," Bo says. "The spacecraft are a means for getting from one place to another."

The problem of getting from one place to another here on earth landed Bo and Peep in jail in Harlingen, Tex., two years ago. This was shortly after they had "awakened" to the knowledge that they had known each other in outer space and that they had been sent here to harvest the planet for an outbound U.F.O.

Their first convert was a housewife whose husband did not approve of his wife's leaving him. According to Bo, in an attempt to retrieve his wife the husband reported his car and the family credit card as having been stolen. There was a further mix-up involving a rental car that was kept overtime. The Two were arrested in Harlingen on Aug. 27, 1974—Bo on car-theft charges and Peep on a credit-card count, which was later dropped. Bo says that it took six months to bring him to trial, and at the advice of a public defender, he pleaded guilty. "I had already spent six months in jail," he says jauntily, "and since the sentence was only four months, I now have two months' credit due me."

The Two first met in 1972 in a Houston hospital as Mr. Applewhite and Mrs. Nettles. He was a talented musician who had sung 15 roles with the Houston Grand Opera and served six years as a professor of music at the University of St. Thomas. Peep was a professional nurse. Applewhite was the son of a Presbyterian minister, and Mrs. Nettles had been raised as a Baptist, but both were intensely interested in reincarnation and astrology. When he met Mrs. Nettles, Bo was divorced. He says, "I felt I had known her forever. I had wanted someone to do an astrological chart on me, so when I met her, I ran right out to my car and got my birth certificate."

They both shortly concluded that they had known each other in previous lives. But it took them over a year to awaken to *where* they had known each other and to the unusual mission that had brought them together. In the interim, they teamed up to operate the Christian Arts Center in Houston, specializing in astrology, mysticism, healing, metaphysics, theosophy and comparative religions. Mrs. Nettles handled the astrology, and her method of preparing astrological charts presaged the marvels she and Bo now preach.

In an interview published in The Houston Post in 1972, Mrs. Nettles declared that she was assisted in her astrological work by a monk named Brother Francis who had died in 1818. "He stands beside me when I interpret the charts," the Post quoted her. "There can be several meanings to them, and if I'm wrong, he will correct me."

Applewhite supported her story of being helped by the long-dead monk but expressed concern about how this would be received by the uninitiated. "We know that we are putting ourselves in jeopardy with three-fourths of the people of our past," he was quoted. "A lot of people are going to say, 'Old applesauce finally flipped.'"

Soon after, The Post reported that Applewhite was fired as director of music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on the day the story about the monk-astrologer appeared.

Now that they have been transformed as Bo and Peep, the Two are reluctant to discuss their lives as Herff Applewhite and Bonnie Nettles. The Christian Arts Center "didn't get off the ground," Bo says. "It was just an excuse for our awakening, a means for us to understand what we were about."

Realization that they were from "the level above human" began in 1972 and took more than a year. "Our thirst was unquenched and we were not finding what our purpose was," Bo said, "and it was as if the season had arrived under the direction of the next level for us to awaken to what we had to do. It was as if we had been given smelling salts and told, 'O.K., you guys, you've had 40 years and now it's time for you to realize who you are, what you have to do and get on with the show.'"

Despite this stern directive from above, both Bo and Peep

Joan Culpepper, student of the psychic, in her Los Angeles home, where the Two won their first converts. She is now a defector, and is writing a book about Bo and Peep

Bo and Peep, at the microphones, appear with some of their followers at a public meeting on the campus of Canada College in Redwood City, Calif.

were uneasy about announcing to the world that they were here from heaven to take people back there on a U.F.O. They both vividly remember their first public announcement, which was made somewhat surreptitiously.

"There was a little Episcopal church in Spokane, Wash.," Bo said. "We wrote on the register at the church what our mission was and then ran. Next we told a Baptist preacher in Oklahoma City and he threw us out. He said he had had Moses and Elijah there and didn't need anyone else. After that we wrote little notes about our mission and dropped them in the strangest places all over the nation. I'm sure people have found them in the middle of their Bibles."

Eventually Bo and Peep reached Southern California, where a psychic guru named Clarence Klug heard about them and arranged for his students and friends to attend a meeting with the Two at Joan Culpepper's house. Eighty people crowded into the house, and when Bo and Peep had told their tale, more than a third of their listeners were ready to go. As Bo put it later, "There are a lot of advanced souls in Southern California."

People who do not believe that Bo and Peep are from outer space offer a variety of conjectures about what they are up to. The most common theory is that their story is just a complex moneymaking flimflam. But no one has traced any money from the communal pots into their pockets.

Another theory is that the Two are engaged in some sort of scholarly research into human gullibility, perhaps for a wealthy doctoral candidate in social psychology. There isn't any evidence of that, either, and Bo and Peep laughed when it was suggested to them.

A California clinical psychologist said, "It is quite possible that they believe what they say. I would suggest some research into what psychiatry calls *folie a deux*." She defines this as a somewhat rare aberration in which two people who are closely associated share identical delusions and thus reinforce each other's misreading of reality.

Many people find the followers a greater mystery than Bo and Peep. Why do the converts believe that the Two will take them to heaven on a U.F.O.? Interviews with a number of followers and defectors in San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco elicited a variety of answers.

Todd Berger, a young Los Angeles film editor, who has defected, offered the simplest answer. "U.F.O.'s fascinate me and I just wanted to take a trip on a spacecraft."

Moriah, who is still firm in the faith, is 26, Jewish and formerly lived in Westchester County, N.Y. She came to Los Angeles seeking a movie career. She has been exploring many religions since she was 16. "I've been looking for something for a long time and didn't know what I should do," she said. "What the Two had to say just *felt* right. My head told me that their story didn't make sense, but I had a strong inner feeling that told me, 'Hey, you've got to do this.'"

Levi, 20, was raised a Catholic in the Midwest. He went AWOL from the Air Force four months ago to join the Process. He insists that he liked the Air Force, where he served more than two years. He first heard of Bo and Peep when their story broke in Oregon, but he has never met them. He sought out some of the followers of Bo and Peep in the San Francisco area. "I felt they were sincere, truth-seeking, happy and fulfilled. For the first time in my life, I have a firm faith that there is something higher."

David, who is 33, left a prospering computer business and "a mistress I was very fond of" to go nomading in the Process. He is divorced and the father of a 12-year-old daughter. He was raised a Catholic but went over to agnosticism when young. For years he experimented with drugs, including LSD, which he said "took me into realization of a greater reality." He heard about the Two in a radio newscast and later attended a meeting in Oakland conducted by one of the Two's followers. There he "felt a great surge of energy that meant that this message was meant for me." He has never met Bo and Peep. He attaches great significance to the fact that the night before he first heard of the Two, he was out walking with his mistress, looked up at the stars and told her, "There has got to be more than this life, and if there is any way to get off this planet, I want to go." When his mistress, a Scientology adherent, later refused to join him in the Process, he saw this as "my first test" put to him by "the next level."

Ironically, the couple who helped put Bo and Peep on the national wire services are no longer in the flock. They are the Oregon couple who left their two children behind

with no precedent of consumer complaints about trips to outer space, has initiated no action.

Bo and Peep insist that any pooling of money that has occurred took place among members of the flock and was *their* idea, not the Two's. Some groups decided to put their money in a common pot, Bo said he had heard, and then shared it for camping equipment, cars and transportation. But none of it, he said, was passed on to the Two.

How do Bo and Peep pay their bills? "We don't have any bills," said Bo. "We live in tents, or in motels when the rooms have been given to us." What about food and gasoline?

"We receive donations," said Peep.

"We've done whatever is required to sustain our needs," said Bo. "Whenever we are in communication with the next level, our needs are supplied."

Some of the defectors have estimated that followers tossed something between $40,000 and $60,000 into the Process. There are persistent stories that one Oregonian turned in $14,000 in cash in a brown paper bag to demonstrate how thoroughly he had overcome his attachment to money. But since the followers adopt new names and tend to move about a lot when they embark on the Process, it is difficult to locate anyone for questioning about who gave how much money to whom and what happened to it.

Bo and Peep say they have no interest in who their followers are, or their family background or what they have renounced. The Two assert they were not aware that one young Oregon couple turned their two small children over to friends when they set off on the Process. "We learned about that when we read about it in the newspapers," said Bo. Children are not eligible for the space flight because the decision to go must be made by each individual, and youngsters and adolescents are not presumed to be capable of making such a momentous choice. Names assumed by the followers range from the clearly Biblical to the whimsical—John the Beloved, Peter, David, Joshua, Judas the Lesser, Jason, Joy, Wink, Window, Marty, Moneybags, Fanta.

While engaging in the Process, members of the flock wander as the spirit moves them. The Two advised them that Oregon, Colorado and Sedona, Ariz., were "high energy places." Some have trekked more than 6,000 miles while others move in a more constricted orbit near their former homes. Converts keep in touch with one another by a kind of underground network and eagerly await news from the Two. Occasionally the Two telephone one of their more active followers with a clarification when new problems arise.

Followers say the Two have instructed them to keep close tabs on the newspapers, presumably for news that the Demonstration has begun. This would give the flock three and a half days to reach the site for the promised miracle of resurrection and lift-off.

The first followers were assigned partners, and the faithful still tend to travel in pairs or small groups. The partners help each other with the "overcoming," but if they become too attached to each other, then *that* attachment becomes something to be overcome. "There is no formula," says Bo. "If an individual finds a *need* to have a partner, you can be sure there will be a period when he has no partner." On the other hand, if a follower likes to be alone, his reclusiveness becomes something to be overcome. "The need for affection at any level, the need to be with someone, the need to be alone, are all stumbling blocks," says Bo. "Such things are appropriate for this level," says Peep, "but to make it to the next level they must give up all their addictions."

Sometimes the overcoming process gets confused. One newcomer, with a luxuriant beard and mustache, was startled when an older colleague asked, "Are you *attached* to your beard and mustache?" When the question was explained to him further, the newcomer decided that he was physically, not emotionally, attached to all that hair and he kept it.

Attachments to husbands, wives, and children are hurdles that keep many prospects from walking out the door of their lives; others have surmounted these obstacles. The flock includes one successful Colorado businessman who talked to the Two for only two days and then left his wife and six children.

The proscriptions against sex, tobacco, liquor and drugs prove troublesome roadblocks to others. "After three months without an orgasm, I decided that this trip was not for me," said one young woman.

Successful completion of the Process literally changes the physical structure of the

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The next world

Continued from Page 12

ers estimate the flock now numbers between 300 and 1,000.

There was nothing mysterious about their recent vanishing, Bo and Peep explained. They have been engaged—like Richard Nixon, Spiro Agnew, Judith Campbell Exner and your next-door neighbor—in writing a book. It is being rushed into print in a paperback, with a foreword by Hayden C. Hewes of Edmond, Okla., a longtime U.F.O. tracker, who is director of the International Association for the Investigation of the Unexplained.

Despite the cosmic aspects of their problems, Bo and Peep discussed them in a down-to-earth manner, much like a suburban couple explaining a controversy that had arisen in their P.T.A. chapter. A principal issue is the date when the U.F.O. will descend, take Bo and Peep and their flock aboard and soar up to the heavenly kingdom, or "next level," as they describe their destination. A number of the prospective passengers have grown restless, like a group of Caribbean-bound voyagers whose cruise ship's sailing has been delayed. Discontent is especially prevalent among the first 27 prospective space voyagers who were recruited back in April, 1975, at the home of Joan Culpepper, a Los Angeles psychic. A number of them, including Mrs. Culpepper, complain that they were told that the take-off would occur "within months" in the summer of 1975. Mrs. Culpepper, who is divorced, is an energetic, attractive woman and she has become a leader of the U.F.O. dissidents. "I feel a responsibility for what I helped them get into," she says. She, too, is writing a book about the Two. The defectors look upon her as a kind of Ralph Nader of the U.F.O.'s.

"We have *never* stated the time," said Bo, while Peep nodded earnest agreement. He conceded, however, that he did tell the first group: "We know that you don't have as long as a year." "It is not that we are hiding anything," he said. "Heavens, if we *knew* the exact month we would leave, we would say it." He now admits that the one-year deadline was a mistake and that lift-off day has not been scheduled and may be several years away. But it might also be next week.

The departure cannot be pinpointed, they explain, because it depends on something called the Demonstration, a miracle that they will perform. As they describe it, they are to be assassinated by angry disbelievers and are then to rise from the dead. They base this prediction on the claim that they are not ordinary visitors from outer space but heavenly messengers whose appearance was foretold in the New Testament's Book of Revelation. The Biblical passage tells of "two witnesses" with the power to prophesy, whose message "tormented them that dwelt on the earth." The two are killed, according to Revelation, and their bodies lie in the street for three and a half days. Then the two rise from the dead and a voice from heaven cries "Come up hither," and in the sight of their foes they ascend "to heaven in a cloud." Bo and Peep maintain that they are the Biblical Two, and that the "cloud" is actually a spacecraft.

"We would be pleased to have the Demonstration come quickly so we could go back into our Father's kingdom and go on with our work there, instead of here," Bo said. "While we have no desire to escape the Demonstration, neither are we people who find pleasure in being killed. The world does not have to *choose* to do us in, but the chances that it won't happen are about as great as that a rain will wash all the red dirt out of Oklahoma."

The Two first publicly predicted the Demonstration when skeptics challenged them to perform a miracle to prove that they were indeed divine messengers from outer space. They have refused to perform miracles on the grounds that any believer who requires a miracle is not worthy of a seat on the heavenly spacecraft. To qualify for the voyage, they say, one must believe in them without "any of those little tricks," as they refer to miracles. The Demonstration, they point out, will be staged not to convince their followers but to confound the scoffers.

In addition to possessing unquestioning faith, followers of the Two must undergo what is termed "the Process." This consists of "overcoming" normal human attachments—to families, homes, money, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, children, sex and any kind of drugs, including marijuana. This renunciation is necessary to help the follower concentrate on establishing direct communication with those in the next level. Once such contact is made, the follower carries out whatever instructions are received from above.

Bo and Peep consider themselves messengers to show mankind how to "get off the top of the mountain," not as tour guides to outer space. In a series of how-to-do-it memos, they have spelled out the Process in considerable detail. "To demonstrate that you are committed to reaching the next level, where you will have eternal life and be able to help significantly those in this garden," one memo asserts, "you must leave all your past behind. This means that you walk out the door of your human life, taking with you only those things that will be necessary while you are still on this planet. . . . If you are ready to go, you will need a car, a tent, a warm sleeping bag, a stove, at least two changes of winter clothing and two for warmer weather, eating and cooking utensils and whatever money you can bring."

"The walking-out-the-door formula," another memo explains, "should not be confused with a seeming similar experience that so many have tried, the search for 'self.' . . . Such a candidate does not seek to increase his human qualities, such as loving and sharing in the human way, for in his pursuit of the kingdom of heaven, his only interest in another human is that of recruiting prospects."

The Two now claim that this passage is partly in error. "We don't feel that members of the next level are *recruiting*," Bo said, "nor do we feel that it is our *desire* to recruit. We merely come to the places where people are looking for information that we would like to share. . . . We are not interested in talking them *into* anything."

Recently Joan Culpepper, who says she contributed $433 to "the Process," consulted the Los Angeles District Attorney's office about lodging a fraud complaint. She and some other defectors feel they have paid for a U.F.O. trip and have been defrauded. The D.A.'s office,

Pianeti abitabili nella Galassia

Per l'American Association of Advanced Studies nella nostra Galassia e persino nel sistema solare potrebbero esserci centinaia di piccoli pianeti rocciosi simili alla Terra, con condizioni ambientali e climatiche favorevoli alla vita. **METRO**

za con sgombro al naturale. In te, ma un "temporary shop" ...

Ecco perché vediamo cose inesistenti

Pareidolia, un fenomeno antico che Marte ci ripropone

GIANLUCA GROSSI
ROMA

L'ultimo caso si è registrato una ventina di giorni fa quando il Times ha diffuso le foto di una figura apparentemente umana che pareva muoversi sulla superficie marziana. Poi si è detto che la fotografia non poteva avere nulla a che vedere con l'uomo, essendo solamente il risultato di un gioco di luci e ombre attorno a una piega di roccia e sabbia.

In realtà questa tendenza a riconoscere facce, corpi e oggetti a noi cari sulla superficie di Marte (così come fra nuvole o muri scrostati) è un fenomeno che risale a molto tempo fa e che da sempre quindi condiziona le ricerche scientifiche.

È un fenomeno chiamato pareidolia e si riferisce genericamente all'illusione subcosciente di vedere cose che non ci sono, ma che in qualche modo hanno il potere di rassicurarci. «In ambito psicologico è stato ampiamente esaminato il fenomeno della pareidolia» spiega Francesco Marucci dell'università La Sapienza di Roma. «Ciò accade quando il nostro sistema cognitivo percepisce stimoli visivi ambigui e confusi, poiché è costituzionalmente portato a individuare figure semplici, chiare, e ragionevolmente condivisibili - continua Marucci - Entra quindi in gioco il cosiddetto meccanismo della "proiezione attributiva", vale a dire il meccanismo con il quale proiettiamo contenuti e significati che riteniamo essere adeguati per interpretare una realtà percettiva incerta e problematica».

"L'uomo" su Marte

A monte di ciò Marte è stato quindi definito il pianeta della pareidolia, proprio perché sono numerosi gli avvistamenti "anomali" avvenuti sulla sua superficie nel corso degli anni. Il primo a vedere sul Pianeta Rosso cose inesistenti fu l'astronomo italiano Giovanni Schiapparelli nel 1887 che vide dei canali che collegavano fra loro distese marine; di conseguenza l'astronomo francese Camille Flammarion ipotizzò la presenza di una civiltà progredita. Ma dalla sonda americana Mariner 4 lanciata nel 1965 siamo venuti infine a sapere che i canali non furono che il frutto di un'illusione ottica.

Nel 1970 vengono identificati nella pianura di Cydonia, sempre su Marte, delle strane formazioni geologiche. Si pensò ai resti di giganteschi monumenti, analoghi alle piramidi egiziane, alti fino a 1600 metri di altezza e con essi si parlò quindi di una civiltà vecchia di 500mila anni. Ma la verità è molto meno affascinante: ricognizioni successive hanno infatti appurato che si tratta di semplici rilievi rocciosi.

Nel 1976 è la volta di The face, il disegno più straordinario "inventato" dal suolo marziano. La faccia è stata fotografata dalla sonda Viking 1.

Nel 2006 quindi, con Mars Global Surveryor, si ha la conferma che si tratta solo di un egregio lavoro operato dalla erosione.

Nel 1999 e nel 2000 vengono visti due enormi cuori, il secondo, guarda caso, in corrispondenza del giorno di San Valentino. Ma anche qui non è stato possibile intravedere l'azione di qualche extraterrestre. Si tratta infatti di banali depressioni geologiche di qualche chilometro di diametro. Nel 2003 la sonda Spirit fotografa l'immagine di un teschio umano, ma analisi più approfondite parleranno semplicemente di una particolare posizione delle rocce. Infine sono di due anni fa le fotografie di una faccia sorridente. Il risultato? Una catena montuosa mai vista prima.

Fenomeni aerei anomali

Quando si parla di fenomeni aerei anomali non ci si riferisce ad apparizioni di oggetti volanti non identificati. Questi infatti differiscono dai primi, oltre che per la loro palese consistenza fisica, anche per la loro natura intelligente. Le prove a tale proposito vanno ben oltre il ragionevole dubbio. Nell'autunno del 1948 il "Sign" (La prima commissione d'inchiesta istituita dal governo americano per fare luce sul fenomeno UFO) ricevette un rapporto da Kyushu, in Giappone, in cui si descriveva l'incontro di un caccia F-61 con degli UFO. In questo rapporto si avanzava l'ipotesi che questi oggetti potessero essere dotati addirittura di strumentazione radar in quanto «sembravano conoscere in ogni momento le mosse dell'F-61». Era il 15 di ottobre e l'orologio segnava le 23.05, quando l'avvistamento ebbe luogo. La dichiarazione rilasciata il 28 gennaio 1949 dal sottotenente Barton Halter racconta: «Il 15 ottobre 1948, il mio pilota e io (egli era infatti il controllore radar a bordo del velivolo) partimmo per una missione di routine al largo della costa occidentale di Kyushu. Ci trovammo approssimativamente a 80 km e a 330° da Fukuoka e captai un bersaglio aereo che volava a una distanza di 8 km, direttamente davanti a noi e un poco più in basso. Aumentammo la velocità a 350 km all'ora. Dapprima il bersaglio non fece alcuna azione evasiva, inducendoci a pensare che si trattasse di un nostro aereo. Mentre l'accostavamo da dietro, notai che l'azimut cambiava lievemente e che la distanza fra

Nell'autunno del 1948 venne avvistato un bersaglio aereo che volava poco distante da un caccia F-61 su cui viaggiavano il sottotenente Barton Halter e il suo pilota

noi si andava accorciando con estrema rapidità. Poi – e fu una questione di pochi secondi – il bersaglio si tuffò in picchiata. Lo imitammo, nel tentativo di seguirlo, ma prima che potessimo raddrizzarci esso passò sotto di noi e scomparve. Il pilota mi informò che stavamo abbassandoci di 1000 metri al minuto, con una velocità di 500 km all'ora. Era stata mia intenzione chiedergli di sganciarsi dopo che il bersaglio fosse stato inquadrato, ma l'oggetto era stato troppo veloce.

Il secondo avvistamento ebbe luogo, come il primo, da dietro il bersaglio, ma questa volta l'oggetto accelerò di colpo, distanziandoci immediatamente. Al terzo avvistamento, il pilota mi segnalò un contatto visivo a 60° a sinistra. Quando lo captai, il bersaglio si trovava a 40° e 1000 metri a sinistra e a 5° sotto il nostro aereo. Il pilota fece una rapida virata a destra, nel tentativo di avvicinarglisi di coda, ma quando fummo sopra l'oggetto, questo accelerò e scomparve dal mio schermo a 15 o 16 km di distanza. Al quarto avvistamento, il pilota mi informò che qualcosa ci era passato sopra da dietro. Captai l'oggetto proprio mentre stava uscendo dal mio schermo, tra 8 e 10 km davanti a noi e lievemente più in alto. Al quinto e al sesto avvistamento il bersaglio apparve a oltre 14 km di distanza, muovendosi a una velocità di circa 300 km all'ora. Prendemmo un vantaggio di 30 km, accelerando a 350 km all'ora, una velocità di crociera ad alta quota perfettamente sicura per un aereo come l'F-61. Ci accostammo a 3600 metri, ma l'oggetto schizzò via e raggiunse il limite esterno del mio apparecchio, che è di 16 km per i bersagli aerei. Lo sganciamento avvenne in 15-20 secondi». Nella documentazione allegata a questo rapporto si viene a conoscenza che il pilota dell'aereo vide l'oggetto e fu in grado di darne una descrizione accurata. Si trattava di un ellissoide molto corto e traslucido dai contorni netti e privo di calotta visibile; la sua velocità variava da 300 a 2000 m/h. Lo stesso pilota, il tenente Oliver Hemphill junior, dichiarò: «Vidi benissimo la sagoma del bersaglio stagliarsi contro le nubi sotto di noi, illuminate dalla luna piena. Mi resi conto che non assomigliava a nessun tipo di velivolo a me noto e mi misi immediatamente in contatto con la mia stazione di controllo a terra, chiedendo informazioni su qualunque aereo in volo nell'area». Sappiamo che la stazione di controllo non avvistò strumentalmente alcun oggetto in volo eccetto l'F-61.

Tuttavia non v'è dubbio che i due esperti piloti ingaggiarono un inseguimento aereo con un oggetto non convenzionale in grado di sottrarsi a ripetuti tentativi di intercettazione. Cosa fosse nessuno lo seppe mai. In verità in simili circostanze risulterebbe assai più semplice dire ciò che non era.

Apparve dunque ovvia la conclusione della commissione che analizzò il caso, la quale lo classificò come «Oggetto o fenomeno non-identificato».

Antonino Giordano

Quelle visioni di altre realtà

L'ipotesi extraterrestre, ovvero quella che attribuisce ai dischi volanti una connotazione esogena considerandoli astronavi governate da intelligenze aliene in visita sul nostro pianeta, risulta oggi ancora la più probabile. Tuttavia sappiamo che verso la fine degli anni '60 questa posizione assunta dalla stragrande maggioranza degli ufologi fu molto osteggiata. Infatti, dopo lo sconfortante fallimento del "Rapporto Condon" si fece largo un diverso modo di concepire il fenomeno che cambiò radicalmente la prospettiva ideologica sulle origini dello stesso. In effetti questo cambiamento coincise anche con la crisi sociale che attanagliava gli ambienti popolari dell'epoca, desiderosi di riscattarsi da un progressivo appiattimento del pensiero a favore di una nuova espansione della coscienza. In base alla nuova teoria la fenomenologia Ufo veniva a essere associata a tutto ciò che è etichettato come paranormale, ossia facente parte di quella sfera di eventi misteriosi che si manifestano all'uomo da altre dimensioni. Padre di questa visione "parafisica" fu un astronomo statunitense di origine francese, un certo Jacques Vallée, il quale non ebbe vita facile a seguito dell'incoerenza del suo stesso pensiero. Ma al di là delle molte contraddizioni che segnarono le tappe evolutive della sua ipotesi, Vallée ebbe il merito di aver suggerito, dopo essersi lungamente occupato di incontri ravvicinati del terzo tipo, diverse interessanti analogie tra gli Ufo e alcuni soggetti appartenenti per lo

Nel ventunesimo secolo, probabilmente, ci sarà qualche nuova ondata di "strani fenomeni" che al momento è difficile prevedere

più al folclore tradizionale, quali incontri con gnomi, fate e folletti. Egli si convinse che una realtà parallela alla nostra interferisse con quest'ultima allo scopo di influenzare l'evoluzione culturale umana e di esercitarne una qualche forma di controllo. Per queste sue considerazioni divenne ben presto impopolare e anche il suo ruolo nella ricerca ufologia subì di lì a poco un inarrestabile tracollo. Comunque le sue teorie, maturate da un'attenta osservazione dei fenomeni e da un certosino lavoro di comparazione dei dati, che a tutt'oggi nessun altro ricercatore è stato in grado di eguagliare, rimangono non prive di fascino. Come tutti coloro che si accostano allo studio dell'Ufologia anche Vallée aveva riscontrato nelle caratteristiche sostanziali del fenomeno una non comune assenza di punti di riferimento, una vera e propria "fiera dell'assurdo".

Negli ultimi anni si è più volte ribadita la necessità di un approccio multi-disciplinare dello studio delle manifestazioni aeree anomale e dei fenomeni connessi, ciò per trovare quella chiave interpretativa che, nonostante gli sforzi, rimane ancora indecifrabile. Sono molti i ricercatori contemporanei che, rivalutando in qualche misura il pensiero di Vallée, credono che dietro agli Ufo si nasconda una realtà soprannaturale la cui incessante azione è volta a favorire salti evolutivi, soprattutto quando l'umanità attraversa momenti di "ristagno della coscienza". Nell'ultimo interessante libro dello scrittore inglese Colin Wilson intitolato "Dei dell'altro universo" a pag. 390 si legge: «Più di vent'anni di ricerche sul paranormale mi hanno indotto a concludere che esiste una "realtà psichica" parallela a quella materiale. Fantasmi, demoni, poltergeist, fate, financo i "vampiri", sono incursioni di quest'altra realtà nel nostro mondo. Come gli esseri umani, gli abitanti di questa dimensione probabilmente cambiano e si evolvono, così anche i loro sistemi per attirare la nostra attenzione mutano e si evolvono. Nei tempi antichi apparivano i "normali" fantasmi, ritenuti gli spiriti dei morti. Nel Medioevo si manifestarono i poltergeist, nell'Ottocento ogni sorta di spiriti "guida" e chiacchieroni che discettavano dei più svariati argomenti. Nella seconda metà del Novecento sono comparsi gli UFO. Nel ventunesimo secolo, probabilmente ci sarà qualche nuova ondata di "strani fenomeni" che al momento è difficile prevedere. Hanno uno "scopo" tutti questi fenomeni? Impossibile dirlo. Una cosa è certa: che i loro sconcertanti effetti servono a ricordare agli esseri umani che il loro mondo materiale non è la sola realtà. Siamo immersi in un mistero che non può essere compreso in termini di materialismo scientifico. Se i fenomeni psichici hanno uno scopo, è quello di risvegliarci dal nostro "sonno dogmatico" e stimolarci a evolvere verso una superiore forma di coscienza».

Antonino Giordano

Giovedì 11 ottobre 1984

NAZIONE

E.T. è sceso a Polcanto?

A Polcanto incontro ravvicinato del terzo tipo

Un Ufo atterra e riparte in una luce accecante. Il casiere chiama i Cc: le tracce ci sono

ALFREDO SCANZANI

POLCANTO — «E' un fatto eccezionale, credetemi. Una cosa incredibile. Ho avuto tanta paura, lo ammetto, però quello strano essere mi puntava addosso un faro che partiva dalla testa. Poi è sparito, avvolto da una luce bianchissima, e dietro di lui ho visto una palla rossa, come fosse arroventata, che piano piano si è alzata in diagonale dileguandosi silenziosamente verso le Croci del Melago».

Isidoro Ferri è ancora emozionatissimo. Racconta in fretta del suo «incontro ravvicinato di terzo tipo», quasi fosse inseguito da un'ombra misteriosa. Ma andiamo con ordine. Martedì 9, ore 3,30 di notte. Isidoro, 46 anni, casiere della villa «La Radicchia», in via Tassaia 1, a Polcanto, sta dormendo. Gli scuri della finestra della sua camera sono aperti. La moglie Maria è in un'altra camera, con la figlia Annamaria, che ha l'influenza. Luciano, l'altro figlio, riposa lì vicino. Nessuno dei familiari vivrà l'esperienza di Ferri.

Ad un tratto Isidoro si sveglia: una grande luce, bianchissima, ha invaso la stanza. Sul momento pensa che qualche bracconiere si sta aggirando attorno alla proprietà. Si alza e va alla finestra. A una ottantina di metri, su un poggio, vede una figura scura con una specie di faro sulla testa. Non riesce a distinguere bene la sagoma perché tutto intorno è illuminato da una luce accecante, che rischiara a giorno la zona. La stessa luce pare trasformarsi in un gran fuoco, tanto che Isidoro arriva a pensare che qualcuno abbia dato alle fiamme il pagliaio. Però non vede traccia di fumo ed a questo punto la paura arriva a mille.

Pochi secondi e la figura scompare nel nulla. Nello stesso tempo la bianchissima luce viene come inghiottita da un grosso oggetto sconosciuto, posato sull'erba, che adesso appare al Ferri di colore rosso intenso, tipo ferro arroventato, dai contorni nettissimi. L'oggetto, del diametro di tre metri circa, si alza piano piano e lentamente, con movimento diagonale, sparisce sorvolando una quercia, un pino e un boschetto di pioppi. Mentre scompare il velivolo solleva un gran vento.

Solo ora Isidoro Ferri si rende conto che il grosso cane lupo messo a guardia della villa non ha neppure guaito: anche l'animale, insomma, sarebbe rimasto incantato dalla strana apparizione.

L'uomo torna a letto e guarda la sveglia: sono le 3,40. Il cuore ce l'ha ancora in gola e non riesce a prender sonno. Alle 6,30, già in piedi, per via incontra un maresciallo e gli racconta l'episodio. Viene così convinto a denunciare il fatto ai carabinieri di Borgo San Lorenzo, che proprio ieri hanno fatto un sopralluogo attorno alla villa «La Radicchia». Il Ferri è una persona che si è guadagnata la stima di tutti, quindi è meglio dare un'occhiata e fare un rapporto.

Sul posto dell'«atterraggio» sono ancora visibili le tracce di tre ipotetici piedi dell'oggetto volante. Isidoro ha ancora gli occhi rossi per l'effetto della luce accecante. □

Isidoro Ferri, 46 anni, casiere della villa «La Radicchia», vicino a Polcanto, è ancora sbalordito per lo strano fatto al quale ha assistito l'altra notte dalla sua camera da letto. Svegliato da una luce accecante, appena si è affacciato alla finestra ha visto tutta la zona che circonda la casa illuminata a giorno. Erano le 3,30 e guardando meglio ha notato una misteriosa figura con un «faretto» in testa. La sagoma è scomparsa all'improvviso e subito dopo, mentre la fortissima luce si attenuava, il Ferri ha osservato un grosso oggetto posato sull'erba, color rosso fuoco. *Nella foto:* il Ferri indica una delle tre «orme» lasciate dall'Ufo.

gli psicologi non possono fare a meno di chiedersi dove andrà a finire quella prerogativa che conduce alla creatività: la fantasia.

Parco preistorico

Nella Valle delle Meraviglie, il più imponente « parco preistorico » conosciuto, con i suoi 40 mila graffiti, è stata effettuata una scoperta entusiasmante: quella delle prime pitture rupestri, rappresentanti una scena di caccia alla capra selvatica ed un personaggio umano.
Tali disegni risalgono probabilmente al Neolitico e sarebbero quindi più antiche delle incisioni attribuibili all'Età del bronzo e del ferro. Ma c'è di più: mentre i graffiti rappresentano scene legate alla pastorizia, le pitture ci raffigurano un momento della caccia, il che fa pensare a due diverse matrici culturali.
Sull'eccezionale rinvenimento (di cui PI KAPPA si occuperà ampiamente tra breve) hanno parlato il professor Giuseppe Vicino ed il nostro collaboratore Enzo Bernardini nel corso di un raduno scientifico svoltosi presso il Museo Bicknell di Bordighera, sede dell'Istituto internazionale di studi liguri.
Ma i disegni non sono stati il solo argomento della riunione: si è discusso anche sui « Ciotti » di Ventimiglia, un giacimento archeologico all'aperto, il primo della Liguria ocidentale, in cui si sono raccolti di recente circa trecento frammenti di selce appartenenti probabilmente al Paleolitico, che serviranno per approfondire le nostre conoscenze sugli strumenti usati dagli abitatori preistorici delle sottostanti caverne dei Balzi Rossi.

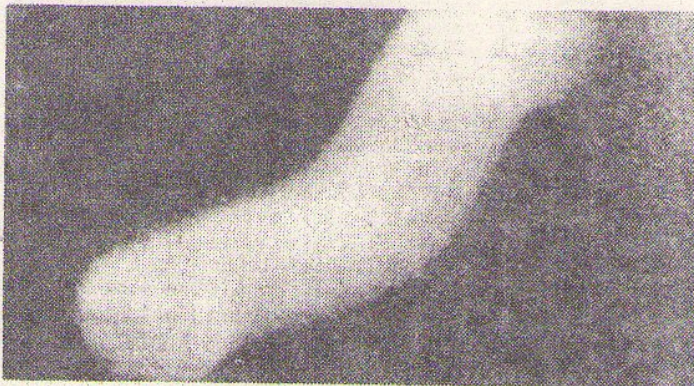
Ufos su Cape Kennedy

I « dischi volanti » si sono rifatti vivi nei cieli americani: « Sono i primi da un bel po' di anni a questa parte », ha detto il colonnello Richard Davies, addetto alle informazioni presso la base aeronautica di Warner-Robins, commentando gli avvistamenti avvenuti ai primi di settembre sullo stato di Georgia.
Le prime segnalazioni si sono avute a Camilla, una piccola cittadina: il giornalista Chester A. Tatum ha potuto fotografare l' UFO, presentante un « disegno a strisce con una specie di ghirigoro al centro ». La notte seguente altri due corpi sconosciuti sono passati su Sandersville: si muovevano contemporaneamente da sud-ovest a nord-ovest. Uno era molto piccolo, con una luminescenza che dal rosso sfumava nel verde, nel blu ed infine nell'oro. I colori del secondo, più grande, si fondevano nel bianco; l'oggetto pareva, inoltre, cambiare continuamente forma.
Altre segnalazioni sono pervenute dal Tennesse, ma a destare maggiore impressione è stato il fatto che le testimonianze provengono anche da zone limitrofe a Cape Kennedy, i cui abitanti, ormai abituati ai lanci spaziali, possono difficilmente prendere abbagli.

La foto ripresa dal giornalista Tatum.

(Dai notiziari scientifici ANSA, DPA, NOVOSTI, USIS)

La Difesa renderà pubblici alcuni documenti

Le prove sugli Ufo non sono più top-secret

di MARCELLO SOPPETTI

FIRENZE, 5 — Se il ministero della difesa metterà a disposizione uno stralcio della documentazione sugli Ufo conservata dallo stato maggiore dell'aeronautica, gli Ufo torneranno alla ribalta. Per le foto scattate oltre cinque anni fa da un pilota militare italiano, Giancarlo Cecconi (da poco in pensione) mentre rientrava alla base con un G91-R dopo una missione fotografica sugli Appennini e per la testimonianza del custode di una villa a Polcanto poco lontano da Firenze, Isidoro Ferri 46 anni; questi, la notte del 9 ottobre avrebbe visto oltre all'Ufo anche una specie di figura. Le foto scattate da Cecconi, oltre ottanta, è possibile siano alla base della decisione del ministro della difesa Giovanni Spadolini a prendere in considerazione l'opportunità di affidare al Cnr studi e ricerche in merito agli Ufo. Lo disse proprio Spadolini, rispondendo il 27 luglio scorso, alla Camera, all'interrogazione presentata dall'on. Abate ed altri che chiedeva l'ammissione di esperti civili «ufologi» alla documentazione raccolta dall'aeronautica militare. Secondo Spadolini, il ministero della difesa «non ravvisa possibile l'accreditamento di esperti civili all'interno della propria organizzazione né ha interesse, al momento, alla costituzione di un ente ufologico militare. Tuttavia — disse Spadolini — uno stralcio della documentazione sugli Ufo conservata a cura dello stato maggiore dell'aeronautica può essere resa disponibile attraverso i competenti canali».

Gli «incontri ravvicinati» sono le ultime tre categorie di una classificazione ideata dall'astronomo e ufologo professor allen Hynek dei diversi tipi di avvistamenti e manifestazioni Ufo. Queste categorie di catalogazione, ormai in pratica accettate da tutti gli studiosi del fenomeno, sono sei. Le prime tre si riferiscono a luci notturne, dischi diurni e radarvisuali. Gli incontri ravvicinati possono essere di primo, secondo e terzo tipo, secondo la distanza dell'Ufo dal testimone e dall'interazione che l'Ufo stesso può esercitare nell'ambiente esterno entro i cui confini si manifesta. L'Ufo visto e fotografato dal pilota militare è quindi classificabile come un incontro ravvicinato di primo tipo, mentre quello del custode e quelli del terzo tipo. A prima vista può sembrare che, di fronte a fotografie (soprattutto scattate da un pilota militare) e a testimonianze di persone serie e affidabili, come il casiere viene descritto da tutti, nessun dubbiuo dovrebbe sussistere e invece sugli incontri ravvicinati bisogna indagare più attentamente che negli avvistamenti inseribili nelle prime tre classificazioni.

Se è vero, infatti, che gli incontri ravvicinati, nei tre tipi, si possono difficilmente liquidare come identificazione erronea di oggetti familiari, è altrettanto vero che nessuno, neppure gli scienziati e i tecnici (compresi i militari), può affermare, di conoscere tutto. Se, quindi, anche unpilota militare vede un oggetto volante che dice di non conoscere non può dire di aver visto un Ufo nel senso tradizionale che ormai si dà a questa sigla, perché quell'oggetto potrebbe non essergli familiare e tuttavia appartenere, per esempio, alla categoria dei missili «Cruise» che nel '79 non erano certamente a conoscenza di tutti i militari e il cui comportamento è quello di alzarsi e abbassarsi verticalmente secondo un profilo del terreno. Oppure potrebbe essere un «Remotely Piloted Vehicle» (veicolo pilotato a distanza) le cui forme architettoniche e il comportamento in volo sono vicinissime se non identiche a molti avvistamenti di presunti Ufo. Nel caso di quello fotografato dal pilota militare di vono gli «RPMB» (Remotely Piloted Mini-Blimp, cioè piccolo dirigibile semifloscio pilotato a distanza) della «Dsi» (Developmental Sciences inc. con sede a East Valley in California) che assomigliano in modo quasi identico a quello fotografato dal pilota militare, specialmente il tipo di nailon gonfiato ad elio.

Dell'avvistamento del custode c'è poco da dire. Ha un valore ufologico praticamente nullo poiché lo stesso prof. Hynek, padre dell'ufologia contemporanea e che negli Ufo ci crede, afferma che non si può dare valore di prova al singolo testimone. Soprattutto se questi, come nel caso del Ferri, aveva tutta la famiglia a disposizione che dormiva vicinissimo a lui e non si è premurato affatto dis vegliarla per confortarlo nella sua testimonianza. Per quanto attiene, poi, alle affermazioni del custode che sul luogo dove sarebbe atterrato il presunto Ufo vi sarebbero le tracce del carrello dell'Ufo stesso, i carabinieri che hanno fatto le indagini sostengono che si tratta di orme di animali. Una volta ancora occorre andarci cauti: non è tutt'Ufo ciò che vola sulle nostre teste e non conosciamo. (ANSA)

Reflection of Light Is Cited To Explain 'Flying Objects'

DALLAS, Aug. 4 (AP)—Dale Milford, a radio-television weatherman, said today he believed he had found the source of at least a large number of the unidentified flying objects reported in recent days.

Mr. Milford, meteorologist for Station WFAA, said that an airplane flight today had confirmed his theory that the objects are the reflection of light from a warmer layer of air between two cooler layers, called an inversion. Inversions can be seen by Weather Bureau radar.

Mr. Milford said that during the flight he saw what could be called a flying object. He said it was the reflection of a star.

He said "the object" moved back and forth and changed direction horizontally, then remained stationary for two minutes.

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my most optimistic expectations."

PILOT REPORTS SAUCERS

Says Airliner Passengers and Crew Saw Lights

DETROIT, Feb. 25 (AP)—The pilot of an American Airlines DC-6 passenger plane said today that three mysterious objects that looked like shining saucers appeared to accompany the plane for forty-five minutes last night on its nonstop flight from Newark, N. J., to Detroit.

Capt. Peter Killian of Syosset, L. I., said other members of the crew and the thirty-five passengers also saw the flying objects. The plane left Newark at 7:10 P. M.

Captain Killian and Co-pilot John Dee of Nyack, N. Y., said they lost the three objects in the haze.

Captain Killian said he radioed two other American Airlines planes flying in the vicinity of his ship to make sure "I wasn't seeing lightning bugs in the cockpit." He said both other captains radioed back that they had seen the flying objects too.

S, FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1960.

SKY MYSTERY SIGHTED

'Echo Watchers' See a Fast Light in Eastern Areas

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (UPI)—Eastern "Echo watchers" saw something in the sky last night in addition to the big communications satellite, but nobody knows for sure what it was.

Reports of a small, fast-moving light in the sky came from Boston, Erie, Pa., and a number of locations near Washington, including the Georgetown University Observatory.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which launched Echo I two weeks ago, said the light had nothing to do with the satellite. The agency added that none of its watchers had seen the light and none of its instruments tracked it.

The Air Force Space Surveillance Control Center at Bedford, Mass., said the only report it got was from the Georgetown Observatory, which suggested it might have been jet plane. The Air Force also suggested it might have been a meteor.

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seller, and his wife, Helen Joyce Kroger, are understood to be Canadians. The fifth is Gordon Arnold Lonsdale, a London business executive.

Flying Saucers Irk Soviet

MOSCOW, Jan. 8 (AP)—Two Soviet newspapers denounced today Russians who believe stories about flying saucers. Pravda, the Communist party organ, and Komsomalskaya Pravda, the youth newspaper, assailed those who spread and those who believe in such tales.

Abbas Arrives in Rome

ROME, Jan. 8 (AP)—Ferhart Abbas, Premier of the Provisional Algerian Government, arrived today by plane Madrid ...

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ing started there several months ago when they opened the so-called second front.

Lights in Sky Stir Ontario

GUELPH, Ont., Aug. 18 (UPI)—Mysterious objects were reported in the sky over southern Ontario last night. Descriptions varied from a small cloud-shaped formation to a large disk of light. A radio station here was deluged with calls. At least one of the strange effects was identified as light from a searchlight reflected from a cloudbank.

'Flying Saucer' Experts Find No Space Visitors

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (UPI)—The Air Force said today that the only "flying saucers" it had discovered in space had come from launching pads on earth.

The Air Force's "Project Bluebook" task force, assigned to unidentified flying objects, said in an annual summary that it started 488 investigations last year and completed 483 of them.

Of the 483 completed, the Air Force said that fifty-five had turned out to be artificial earth satellites.

These investigations brought to 7,369 the total number since 1947.

The Air Force said it had yet to come up with any evidence that the saucers exist or that any unidentified objects had been launched from space.

Of the 483 objects investigated last year, the Air Force had to leave ten in its "unidentified" classification. Ninety-nine reports were put in the "insufficient data" category.

James A. Farley, District At-

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stato rinvenuto il cadavere.

Un « disco volante » segnalato in viale Corsica

Alcuni cittadini che ieri sera alle 18.45 si trovavano in viale Corsica giurano di aver visto nel cielo un flammeggiante « oggetto », che avrebbe lasciato dietro di sè una lunga scia luminosa, chiaramente visibile. Il disco incandescente si sarebbe spostato a velocità fantastica, compiendo un lungo arco e scomparendo quindi all'orizzonte. Naturalmente, i testimoni della inconsueta apparizione non hanno avuto dubbi sulla sua natura: era un disco volante, uno dei tanti che, nelle ultime settimane, sono comparsi un po' ovunque, tornando alla ribalta dell'opinione pubblica ed eccitando le fantasie. Gli uffici competenti, dal canto loro, hanno comunicato di non avere ricevuto alcuna segnalazione positiva in merito. E' stata avanzata l'ipotesi che si trattasse di un apparecchio a reazione, ma, a quanto risulta, nessun velivolo di tale tipo a quell'ora avrebbe volato nelle vicinanze di Milano. « Disco volante » o fantasia? Anche questo « caso », comunque, si aggiunge a quelli che non hanno finora trovato una risposta.

Cinque bombe a mano e cento cartucce per armi da guerra sono state rinvenute da una pattuglia di carabinieri nel ...

TV: Madagascar Visit

Sights and Sounds of the Island Are Highlights of Lowell Thomas Film

By J. P. SHANLEY

UNUSUAL sights and sounds from the island of Madagascar provided the most absorbing moments on "High Adventure" over Channel 2 last night.

This filmed program, the third in a series made for television under the supervision of Lowell Thomas, also covered many parts of the African mainland.

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It showed viewers Bedouins, Tuaregs and other tribes of the African continent. A visit with an American missionary family including two charming blond children, near Timbuktu, and a look at a desert camel market were fascinating parts of the telecast.

But the technicians who operated the cameras and microphones had their best opportunities on Madagascar, and they made the most of them. Here they captured the flavor of a strange and chilling Hova festival involving disinterment of the long-buried remains of relatives.

The accompanying musical effects and the fiesta-like atmosphere surrounding the event were in striking contrast to the macabre ritual that was being demonstrated.

Mr. Thomas' narration for the film was often informative and amusing. His comments on the haughty appearance of camels and the legendary explanation for it were particularly well done. But he let his viewers down by his swift dismissal of the disease of bilharziasis after using the term as a teaser several times during the program. Webster's New International Dictionary describes it as a disease caused by a genus of worms parasitic in blood.

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Altogether, however, this was a rewarding electronic excursion into another part of the world. It had particular value for school children watching the show.

Pat O'Brien Stars

"EDDIE," last night's offering on Channel 4's "Kraft Television Theatre," was not a great drama, but it was a warm, occasionally saccharine little play competently conceived and executed.

Pat O'Brien, in the title role, played a policeman who has never had to use his gun for twenty years until at the end of a day full of premonitions he fires his first shot and kills his man. Mr. O'Brien portrayed the part of a compassionate, humane, sometimes too nervous officer in a convincing, low-key style.

Sam Dann's script commendably avoided technical police jargon. It was at its best in some of the little exchanges that had little to do with the plot. William A. Graham's direction built up tension although the finale was obvious.

The cast, including Ruth White, Rip Torn and Fay Wray, acquitted themselves ably.

R. F. S.

AUTHOR DIGRESSES ON TV, SOUND IS CUT

Donald E. Keyhoe, author of "The Flying Saucers Are Real," was cut off the air for about fifteen seconds during last night's television presentation

TWO-ACTOR PLAY SCHEDULED ON TV

But Only One Will Speak in Kraft Drama March 12—Marx on 'Last Word'

By VAL ADAMS

Actors, it seems, are caught in a recession. Last week a two-character play ("Two for the Seesaw") opened on Broadway. On March 12, "Kraft Theatre" will present a two-character play, but only one will speak.

The Kraft drama, which will be televised by the National Broadcasting Company from 9 to 10 P. M., will star Earl Holliman and Sessue Hayakawa. The latter is a Japanese actor who portrays the despotic prison camp colonel in the current motion picture "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

Simon Wincleberg wrote the Kraft play, which is titled "The Sea Is Boiling Hot." It is the story of an American pilot who is forced to bail out of his plane over the Pacific during World War II.

The pilot parachutes to an island occupied by a single Japanese soldier, who speaks no English and is armed with a knife. The unarmed pilot and the enemy soldier thus are confronted with an existence where a knife represents the balance of power.

Mr. Hayakawa was a prominent Hollywood star of silent movies from about 1916 to 1927. At present he is in Japan, but he will arrive in this country the latter part of February to appear in the television production.

Marx a Guest Panelist

Groucho Marx, not usually at a loss for words, will be a guest panelist on "The Last Word" Sunday afternoon. The program ab[illegible]t English usage will be televised by the Columbia Broadcasting System from 3:30 to 4 P. M.

Mr. Marx, whose program "You Bet Your Life" is televised by N. B. C., is visiting in New York. Other panelists on Sunday's program will be Harriet Van Horne, television critic of The New York World-Telegram and The Sun, and John Mason Brown.

A speech by Adlai E. Stevenson on "Science, Disarmament and Peace" will be presented over the American Broadcasting Company television network on Friday, Jan. 31, from 10:30 to 11 P. M. The Democratic candidate for President in 1952 and 1956 will speak at the Roosevelt Day dinner of Americans for Democratic Action at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

23-1-58

cuit Court in St. Louis upheld the convictions.

SEVEN MISSING IN FIRE

Baby Is Killed, 21 Are Hurt in Chicago Apartment Blaze

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Jan. 23—Seven children were missing and feared dead today in the ruins of a four-story building where an explosion and fire killed one person, injured twenty-one and routed 100.

A search of the smoking ruins was delayed until a wrecking company could bring down the walls of the building.

Five of the seven missing children are brothers and sisters of Paula Wilkins, 11 months old, who was fatally injured when thrown from a second-floor apartment window. Her mother, Betty, 27 years old, dropped her when their escape by a stairway was cut off by flames.

concerned with inspe... guards than they are with ending all tests may be impressed

AIR MYSTERY DISPUTED

Private Group Asks Sharp to Clarify Oregon Sighting

WASHINGTON, March 19 (UPI)—A research group appealed today to Secretary of the Air Force Dudley C. Sharp to clear up the mystery of a round, flame-spouting object that supposedly assumed mushroom shape and escaped jet pursuers over Oregon last Sept. 24.

The privately financed National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena charged that an official report by the Federal Aviation Agency "proves that the Air Force concealed the facts in the case."

"The Air Force was fully aware that its own and the F. A. A. evidence proved this was some unknown machine under intelligent control," the committee said.

There was no immediate comment from Mr. Sharp. But an Air Force spokesman said there was "insufficient information" on which to draw any conclusion about the Oregon sighting other than that it "was probably a balloon."

Il "disco volante" di Roswell era un pallone-sonda

Chicago 9 luglio, notte.

Il maresciallo Irving Newton, assegnato alla stazione meteorologica della base aerea di Fort Worth, ha oggi esaminato il misterioso ordigno classificato come un «piatto volante», che era caduto presso una fattoria di Roswell, nel Nuovo Messico.

Il sottufficiale lo ha immediatamente identificato per un congegno per osservazioni meteorologiche ad alta quota, già da tempo in uso nell'Esercito degli Stati Uniti, e composto da un pallone di gomma sintetica e da una cassettina contenente strumenti per le misurazioni ad alta quota.

Un disco volante sul cielo di Milano?

Ieri sera poco dopo le ore 21, due professionisti milanesi, che percorrevano in automobile la strada fra Pavia e Milano, nel tratto fra la Certosa e Binasco, videro distintamente in cielo una curiosa meteora bianco-celeste, con sfumature verde-chiaro, e di forma ovoidale, grossa, alla vista, press'a poco come un uovo, con una luminosa coda sottile lunga all'incirca quanto il corpo del presunto meteorite. La strana meteora dava l'impressione di un polipo luminoso munito di un solo tentacolo: impressione avvalorata dal fatto che i contorni non erano netti e precisi, ma piuttosto incerti e sfumati. Il corpo luminoso percorse due terzi dell'orizzonte, da Est a Ovest, e i due professionisti l'ebbero davanti agli occhi, per circa tre secondi, distintamente. Poi svanì all'improvviso come se si fosse dissolto nel firmamento.

'SAUCERS' POSSIBLE, ADMIRAL DECLARES

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, March 11 (Reuters)—Rear Admiral George Dufek said today that he did not think the existence of flying saucers could be discounted.

"I think it is very stupid for human beings to think no one else in the universe is as intelligent as we are," he said.

Admiral Dufek, retiring as commander of the United States research and exploration program in the Antarctic, is returning home.

He said it was not beyond possibility that meteors that exploded in the earth's atmosphere were "saucers driven from Venus or other planets by intelligent creatures."

NEW

FLIER DIES CHASING A 'FLYING SAUCER'

Plane Explodes Over Kentucky as That and Near States Report Strange Object

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 8 (AP)—Several areas of Kentucky and adjoining states were excited today over reports of a "flying saucer" which led to the death of one National Guard flier and fruitless chases by several other pilots.

The National Guard headquarters at Louisville said Capt. Thomas F. Mantell Jr., 25 years old, was killed late yesterday while chasing what was reported as a "flying saucer" near Franklin, Ky.

Two other members of the Kentucky National Guard, also asked to make a flying investigation of reported "flying discs" in the area near Fort Knox, returned to their Louisville base.

Two Hopkinsville pilots, James Garret and William Crenshaw, said they chased a flying object which they believed to be a balloon.

Astronomers at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., reported that they saw some object in the sky yesterday afternoon which they believed to be a balloon, but the Weather Bureau at Nashville said it knew of no balloons in that vicinity.

In Southern Ohio, meanwhile, observers reported seeing a flaming red cone near the Army Air Base at Wilmington. Army spokesmen said they had no information on the object or its origin.

Col. Guy F. Hix, commanding officer at Godman Field, adjoining Fort Knox, said he observed the "flying saucer" for some time. He said contact was made by radio with three National Guard planes and the pilots were asked to investigate.

"We lost contact in about twenty minutes," Colonel Hix said. "Two of the planes later called back and reported no success."

Captain Mantell, an air hero during the Allied invasion of Normandy, was the third pilot. His mother, Mrs. Thomas F. Mantell Sr., said in Louisville she was informed that her son flew too high in his pursuit of the object and lost consciousness.

Glenn Mayes, who lives near Franklin, said he saw the Mantell plane flying at an extremely high altitude just before it seemed to explode in the air.

"The plane circled three times, like the pilot didn't know where he was going," Mr. Mayes said, "and then started into a dive from about 20,000 feet. About halfway down there was a terrific explosion."

Captain Mantell entered the Army Air Forces soon after his graduation from high school and participated in the Normandy invasion and many other European operations during the war.

Since leaving active duty a year ago, he has been associated with the Kentucky Air National Guard.

in the withdrawal of Judge Francis X. Morrissey from his nomination to the Federal District Court in Massachusetts," the judges said.

Flying Objects to Be Studied

WASHINGTON, April 21 (AP) —Representative Gerald R. Ford, Republican of Michigan, said today that the Air Force had contracted with a group of scientists to make an independent study of sightings of unidentified flying objects. He said the study was to start soon after July 1.

TIMES, FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1966.

ad in Greensbo

Chuvalo Spies Object Flying Over Toronto

TORONTO, March 31 (UPI)—George Chuvalo has joined the growing ranks of those claiming to have spotted unidentified flying objects in the sky.

Chuvalo saw the unexplainable objects just one night after being outpointed by the world heavyweight boxing champion, Cassius Clay.

The boxer's wife, Lynne, saw three objects she described as "unlike any commercial aircraft I've ever seen." Chuvalo, a cousin and a friend saw just one of the objects.

Hundreds of other people reported seeing unidentified flying objects. Colors ranged from a glowing white to red, green and blue or a combination.

by Acting Chief Judge J. Sam Perry on Hanrahan's ...

SKY MYSTERY ENDED

Air Force Says Odd Lights Came From Refueling Jets

WASHINGTON, March 20 (AP)—The Air Force said today that mysterious lighted objects reported recently by a commercial airliner were the lights of three jet bombers refueling in the air.

The lights were reported on the night of Feb. 24 over Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. The pilot of an American Airlines plane and a number of the thirty-five passengers on a flight from Newark to Detroit told about the flying objects.

The Air Force said today that it had determined that the lights were from B-47 bombers that were being refueled by a KC-97 tanker in an operation that lasted for more than one hour. The Air Force report said that use of several lights during the refueling explained "some of the commercial airlines reports of being followed by lights."

FLYING SAUCER? PHOTO IS SHOWN

Continued From Page 1

Mr. Heflin said he carried a camera with him for his work, and that during the time the object was in sight he was able to take he hree picures.

During the time the object was near, Mr. Heflin said, he tried to communicate with his supervisor over a two-way radio in his vehicle, but the radio was inoperative. He said the radio has since worked perfectly.

Despite the object's proximity to the Marine base, radar operations failed to report any mysterious identification on Aug. 3.

Mr. Heflin said he was willing to take a lie-detector test in reply to skeptics who may say the pictures are the products of trick photography.

B.V. Savelyev, Farm Expert In Soviet, Dies ...

would drop its demand for free elections only if a better plan, acceptable to the Bonn regime, were advanced.

Flying Object Puzzles Panama

Special to The New York Times.

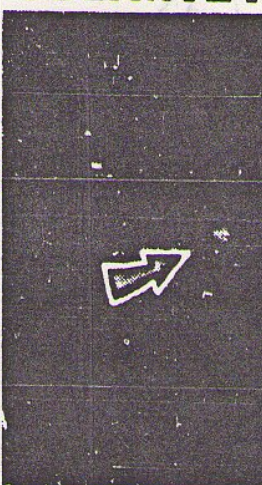
BALBOA, C. Z., Jan. 24—Scores of persons here and in the Republic of Panama saw a bright silver object sweeping in a brief arc across the sky shortly after dark last night. United States radar stations tracked the object but failed to identify it. Last night's sightings followed a similar observation on Jan. 8.

A Correction

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 1—An article in yesterday's New York Times left the impression, due to a typographical error, that two scientists formerly with a University of Colorado flying saucer study took a negative attitude on the possible existence of saucers. The article should have said that the scientists felt that leaders of the project held the negative attitude.

2-5-68 N.Y. TIMES

UN DISCO VOLANTE?

Il guardiacoste Frank Ryman dice di aver fotografato il misterioso «disco volante», nei pressi di Seattle, e ritiene di averlo individuato nel cerchio bianco indicato dalla freccia. (La fotografia originale era 20 volte più piccola).

Visitors from Outer Space?
Hoax? Conspiracy?
At last—a sane, scientific answer to the "flying saucer" mystery

Here, for the first time, is a genuinely *scientific* explanation of Unidentified Flying Objects and their many puzzling characteristics—an explanation that shows that *UFO's do indeed exist*, despite numerous hoaxes and misidentifications of familiar objects. The author explains his theory in language that can be easily understood by any layman, and supports it with extensive documentation from the most reliable sources. He also analyzes some of the most celebrated UFO cases and the work of some of the best-known "UFOlogists." And there are many fascinating illustrations. The controversy over "flying saucers" has raged for some twenty years now. UFOs-IDENTIFIED may well put it to rest once and for all.

UFOs—IDENTIFIED

By PHILIP J. KLASS

Senior Avionics Editor for Aviation Week & Space Technology

Third printing before publication

$6.95, now at your bookstore • RANDOM HOUSE

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SOVIET SCIENTISTS DECRY U.F.O. TALES

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Feb. 29—The Soviet Union's top-ranking academy of sciences acted today to quash a recent flurry of interest here in flying saucers.

The academy's leading astronomers and physicists scorned recurring reports of unidentified flying objects as "unscientific sensationalism."

The scientists declared that mysterious objects sighted in the sky could be explained as optical illusions from reflected light or as mistaken reaction to aircraft and weather balloons.

In what seemed to be an effort to calm any Soviet citizen made nervous by rumors of strange objects in the sky, the scientists declared:

"All objects flying over the territory of our country are identified either by scientists or by [military] men standing guard over the security of our motherland."

THE NE

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S TEACHER

. Girl Testifies
s Molested

Y R. SILVER
he New York Times

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United Press International Cablephoto

THEIR SAUCERS CAME HOME TO ROOST: Christopher Southall, left, and David Harrison, aviation students at Farnborough, England, show a mold with which they and other students fashioned a flotilla of "flying" saucers. Though the fiber-glass saucers caused some uneasiness in various parts of Britain, authorities said the youths would not be prosecuted. They were aiding a charity drive. The saucers could not fly, but were left about, bleeping.

work and converse for about 10 to 12 minutes while Mr. McNeill had his hand on her knee.

"I was too shocked by such a behavior from a teacher to yell out," she said.

Later, after the prosecution had completed its case, Malcolm Kaufman, a 21-year-old biology teacher from Queens who was a student teacher in Mr. McNeill's class last year, testified as the first witness for the defense.

He described Mr. McNeill as "one of the finest teachers I've observed, and one of the best human beings I ever met."

He said that Miss Schaffner had been "very apathetic and disinterested" in class and on two occasions had said about Mr. McNeill that "I hate that man" and "I hate you."

As in previous hearings, which started last Thursday and continued Saturday, the audience today consisted mainly of students sympathetic to Mr. McNeill.

MATTI PER MARTE

E' un po' un'ossessione: il paesello di Quarouble in Francia è stato messo sossopra da un meccanico, che sostiene d'aver veduto uno dei famosi dischi percorrere un tratto di strada ferrata. Ecco i gendarmi che ne cercano le impronte, senza nulla trovare. Forse il fantasioso meccanico aveva alzato il gomito?

The New York Times (by William E. Sauro)

Construction on the new Madison Square Garden as seen from a helicopter. [illegible] is at the right.

Aviation Students Hoax Britain With Flotilla of 'Flying Saucers'

LONDON, Sept. 4 (UPI)—Two aviation students confessed tonight that they had built a flotilla of whirring, bleeping "flying saucers."

The saucers were found in several parts of southern England, and high officials puzzled all day over their origin. The objects made noises when the police cautiously picked them up.

Christopher Southall and Roger Palmer, both 22 years old, said they had built the saucers to publicize a student festival and to "give the police an exercise in dealing with alien spacecraft, because it could happen one day."

The two apprentices at a royal aircraft establishment at Farnborough said the saucers could not fly, although some excited witnesses said they most certainly had flown.

The saucers were discovered today by schoolboys, grocers, housewives and policemen in grassy plots on a line roughly east-west across England from the North Sea to the Bristol Channel.

The police called in defense experts to determine what the saucers were and what would happen if one were opened.

The manager of an engineering plant forced one open and found two car batteries, a radio transmitter and a six-inch loudspeaker immersed in a gooey white liquid with a smell "like bad eggs."

After a satisfying amount of publicity in newspapers, radio newscasts and television programs, Mr. Southall said:

"We didn't mean to cause chaos. In fact, we were rather surprised that it caused all this fuss."

Quotation of the Day

"It wasn't the kind of thing you like to see at 5 in the morning."—Richard D. Carlson, whose sloop was hit by a submarine in Block Island Sound. [55:8.]

acids. These are chemical substances that act as building blocks for the protein essential to all living organisms.

The discovery marks the earliest occurrence of amino acids ever found. The earth is about 4.5 to 4.8 billion years old. The oldest preserved rocks date back to 3.5 to 3.8 billion years. Man evolved only about 2 million years ago.

The rock formation, which was found in South Africa, also contained fossils of algae and bacteria. But until the detection of the amino acids there was no proof that these simple organisms had essentially the same chemical basis as they do now.

Harvard Researchers

The discovery was made less than two weeks ago by Dr. J. William Sc[illegible] old Harvard Univer[illegible] scientist, who has worked under the tutelage of the Harvard Botanist Dr. Elso Barghoorn.

Dr. Schopf served as a summer research fellow at Ames, which is operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The discovery is expected to be reported to the scientific community in papers being prepared for publication later this year.

Dr. Schopf's search for primitive life forms on earth was connected with work at Ames to develop methods for detecting life, if any, on other planets.

This has required extensive research into the chemical evolution of life on earth to determine the possible components of life to look for elsewhere.

Scientists want, for example, to know how well fossils of living organisms survive. If life no longer exists on, say, Mars—but once did—they thus might be able to find tell-tale traces of life and know how to identify them.

Amino acids would be considered some of the most valuable clues. They are the essential components of proteins, and proteins are the essential components of all cells.

The type of amino acids and their arrangement in the protein molecule determine the place and role of a certain cell, whether as a constituent of muscle or hormone or a strand of hair.

According to Dr. Keith Kvenvolden, an Ames research scientist in biochemistry who directed Dr. Schopf's work, the discovery "tells me life processes as we know them were extant 3 billion years ago."

Dr. Kvenvolden said he was certain the substances discovered were indeed amino acids and that he was virtually certain that the substances had been part of a primitive life process.

The discovery, Dr. Kvenvolden said, provides additional important evidence to support prevailing theories of the chemical evolution of life on earth.

A Related Finding

Recently, Dr. John Oro, a biochemist at the University of Houston, found in the same South African rocks compounds suggesting that photosynthesis was taking place as early as 3.1 billion years ago.

Photosynthesis is a process of plant life by which carbohydrates are manufactured from carbon dioxide and water through chlorophyll and light.

Dr. Schopf made his discovery in a chunk of rock from the Figtree formation, named after a small town in South Africa near where it was found.

The rock is chert, a finely crystallized quartz that is considered so impermeable that it would be free from contamination even though it was formed 3.1 billion years ago.

After being cleaned [illegible]

Colorado U. Ends Saucer Study but Does Not Disclose Results

By EVERT CLARK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 30—Field investigations of "flying saucer" reports by University of Colorado scientists were completed on schedule today, Dr. Edward U. Condon, head of the project, said today.

A final report of the scientists' findings will be given to the National Academy of Sciences late in September.

Dr. Condon, a physicist and a former head of the National Bureau of Standards, said he would not discuss any conclusions the researchers might have reached, but there has been a general impression that the U.F.O. riddle remains unsolved.

Associated Press
Dr. Edward U. Condon

Dr. Condon's statement came amid a controversy between himself and Look magazine over an article it printed calling the project the "flying saucer fiasco." The completion of the field investigations and the controversy were not related, the physicist said.

The university undertook a $500,000 study of Unidentified Flying Objects (U.F.O.'s) late in 1966 at the request of the Air Force, whose critics accused it of failing to make a comprehensive, scientific investigation of saucer reports from the public over two decades.

On the House floor today, Representative J. Edward Roush, Democrat of Indiana, using phrases from the Look article, said Congress should take over the investigation from the Air Force. He contended that grave doubts had arisen "as to the scientific profundity and objectivity of the Colorado project."

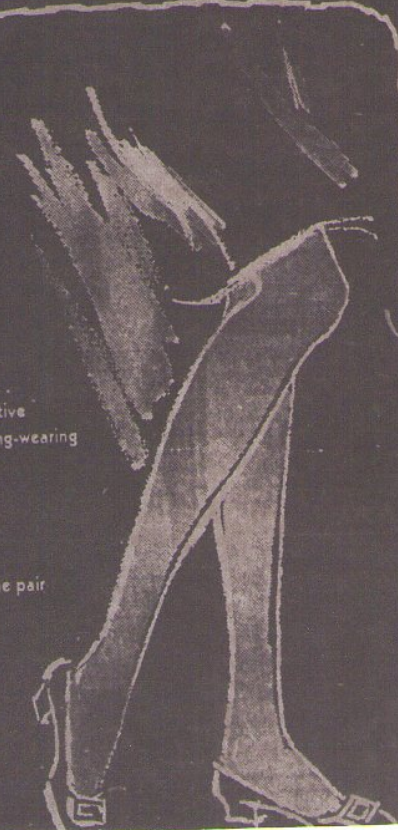
In a related development, a nongovernmental organization, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, held a news conference here to announce that it has "broken with" the Colorado project and claiming to "reveal the firing of top project scientists and other incidents leading to the project's failure."

Many of the group's members take seriously the possibility that flying saucers are of extraterrestrial origin.

The Look article, written by John G. Fuller, concerns primarily the oustings of David R. Saunders, a psychologist, and Dr. Norman E. Levine, an electrical engineer, from the project last February.

Dr. Condon said in a telephone interview today that he had sent a telegram on Sunday to Gardner Cowles, editorial chairman of Look, saying the article contained "falsehoods and misrepresentations." The telegram requests a meeting with Mr. Cowles "in the interest of responsibility and truth in publishing."

NICAP headquarters here has been expressing strong skepticism about the project for months in its newsletter to members. But it is understood that a number of its members around the country had continued to cooperate with the Colorado scientists.

The Look article, in the May 14 issue, indicates that the two ousted men and others on the staff had taken a negative attitude toward the possibility that flying saucers existed and were attempting to end up with a report containing such a "negative" conclusion.

Visits From Space Are Called Possible By Airlines Official

The new director general of the world's major airline body said yesterday that unidentified flying objects may actually be "neighbors in space" who are interested in earthly goings-on.

"I believe in these things," said Knut Hammarskjold, the 44-year-old nephew of the late Dag Hammarskjold, who recently assumed leadership of the International Air Transport Association.

"Of course it is necessary to sift and sort all the information and to be as realistic as possible," he told a luncheon meeting of aviation and space writers. He then posed two rhetorical questions:

"Firstly, is it really that unlikely that there exist civilizations outside our planet which are more developed, both technically and mentally, than we are?"

"Secondly, are these space neighbors of ours getting more interested in what we are doing as our own technical abilities develop?"

Sees Problems to Consider

Mr. Hammarskjold said the existence of neighbors in space would create legal, political and technical problems.

"While this may not be something that has to be solved today, it is certainly something to which we must give serious consideration in the future," he added.

In his address at the national convention of the Aviation and Space Writers Association, held at the New York Hilton Hotel, Mr. Hammarskjold cautioned that airlines should ascertain whether large jumbo jetliners, for which some orders have been placed, can operate out of present airports.

"In certain instances," he said, "I have reason to believe that existing runways will be insufficient in strength, if not in length, for some of the projected giants of the air."

Harold L. Graham, vice president of cargo sales for the Pan American World Airways, denied that the Boeing 747 jumbo jets recently ordered by his airline would be too heavy for present runways. He said the plane's weight would be distributed over many more wheels than today's planes.

Najeeb E. Halaby, a Pan Am vice president and former Federal Aviation Agency Administrator, presented to William A. Patterson, former board chairman of the United Air Lines, the 1965 Monsanto Aviation Safety Award for the year's most significant and lasting contribution to aviation safety.

Mr. Patterson was cited for leadership in pioneering and developing policies, practices and devices fundamental to airline safety.

Arncam Names Executive

The appointment of Joseph V. Cuccinello as vice president for special accounts has been announced by Arncam Shipping

TIMES

Letters to the Editor of The Times

He stated that I should know about the Richmond Parkway in Staten Island because I had voted for it. Inasmuch as the vote by the Planning Commission on the alignment of the Richmond Parkway took place in 1960, and I became a member of the Planning Commission in 1963, I am at a loss to understand this statement.

WILLIAM F. R. BALLARD
Chairman
City Planning Commission
New York, March 30, 1966

Assumptions on UFO's

To the Editor:

The principle of conservation of belief, if correctly applied to the "flying saucer" syndrome, has implications quite different from those you draw from it in your March 23 editorial. Men are strongly disposed not to see or give credence to things that contradict their beliefs; they are much less likely to see things, especially unusual things, that are not there.

The principle is more relevant to the judgments of the scientific community and the armed forces, which have explicit and elaborate belief structures about what is and is not in the universe, than it is to the "naive" eyewitnesses who give detailed descriptions of events which not only are alien to them but about which they seldom have preconceptions.

Scientific Inquiry

By the standards of a social scientist, whose *modus operandi* is analysis of description, not experiment, the frequency and consistency of flying-object reports across time and cross-culturally, by otherwise reliable witnesses who often lack either foreknowledge or belief, suggest a phenomenon sharply distinct from mass hysteria, hallucinations or folk belief.

Unfortunately there seems no adequate scientific inquiry into the subject. The assumption of military men and scientists like D. H. Menzel ("Flying Saucers," 1953) that the sightings are of known or hallucinatory phenomena all but precludes collection of evidence or arrival at conclusions to the contrary. The enthusiasts give equal weight to accounts of Venusian jaunts, radar blips and detailed, cross-verified descriptions.

Jacques Vallee ("The Anatomy of a Phenomenon," 1965) attempts to suspend both belief and disbelief, to record and to categorize. His results persuasively suggest an extra-terrestrial origin for some UFO's. One remains uncertain about the extent to which those results are influenced by his convictions on the subject.

Your editorial documents a human frailty more serious than credulity. It is the inclination of all of us, scientists and laymen alike, to look away for fear of seeing what we do not wish to see.

TED GURR
Research Associate
Center of International Studies
Princeton, N. J., March 24, 1966

For Competent Judges

To the Editor:

It is harrowing to read the tale of the injustice done to Stephen Dennison who, because of a combination of mistakes by the judicial and penal authorities, was illegally and wrongfully imprisoned for 24 years after stealing $5 worth of candy when he was sixteen.

It might be appropriate to emblazon the story on parchment so that it can be on President Johnson's wall when he considers filling the vacancies in the Federal District Court for the Eastern District. From reports about finding lawyers of Italian and Jewish descent to succeed judges of Italian and Jewish descent, talent and the capacity to be a wise and just judge do not seem to be the

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Piatti volanti

Che cos'è questa strana faccenda del «piatto volante»? Apparso nei cieli americani appena tre giorni fa, si è già fatto una fama internazionale di prim'ordine, conquistando un posto d'onore su tutti i giornali del mondo. Ormai se ne parla dappertutto, forse perchè nessuno sa di che cosa si tratti.

Che sia una semplice trovata giornalistica? Una di quelle che vengono in mente in certe serate estive, quando proprio manca la notizia interessante? Ma no! Il disco luccicante esiste, è stato visto da molte persone e non soltanto in America, ma persino — anche se con minore entusiasmo — nell'Iran. Ed allora, che si tratti invece di una specie di bomba atomica? Macchè, nemmeno questo. Secondo le ultime informazioni, il piatto volante non sarebbe altro che uno strumento per osservazioni meteorologiche.

Tutto qui? Le agenzie americane sembra che siano molto spiacenti per il disturbo e le emozioni che hanno provocato. Avrebbero voluto, loro, non deluderci; avrebbero preferito, magari, darci la notizia di una nuova arma micidiale, tanto promettente per la serenità del nostro avvenire. Ma si scusano di non poter proprio accontentarci e di essere costrette a darci questa prosaica smentita. Quei bei piatti per una morte di lusso non sono altro che dei pacifici misuratori di venti. Pensate! Non hanno nemmeno la forma di un disco, ma quella di un povero esagono. Figuratevi, per giunta sono di uno dei metalli più vili che si conoscano. Che delusione!

*Eppure i piatti continuano a volare come se niente fosse. Sembra quasi che la febbre scientifica di misurare i venti stia dilagando in tutta l'America. Si vedono piatti che volano dappertutto, senza riguardo per nessun cielo. Ma come mai si **è scatenata** tutto d'un tratto questa sarabanda? Possibile che gli osservatori degli Stati Uniti abbiano deciso di scaraventare i loro piatti misuratori in tutto il mondo, senza proprio nessuna ragione?*

Francamente ci viene un dubbio. Tra giorni si inizia a Parigi una conferenza per studiare l'applicazione del piano Marshall all'Europa. Forse, con quello squisito senso della pubblicità che è tutto loro, gli americani si sono preoccupati di preparare l'ambiente favorevole. E chissà che non sia venuto in mente a qualcuno di distribuire un po' per tutti i cieli questi dischi luccicanti, pensando che potrebbero avere un certo effetto persuasivo. Non si sa mai! I piani di aiuto di ricostruzione economica sono una bella cosa. Ma quando poi ti vengono serviti su un piatto volante, allora potrebbero riuscire davvero irresistibili. In omaggio al vecchio adagio: «O mangiate questa minestra o...» ed il resto lo sanno tutti. ★

SAUCER SIGHTINGS VEX CAPITOL HILL

Investigating Flying Objects Might Cause Public Alarm

By EVERT CLARK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 26—Across the swamps of southern Michigan earlier this week "flying saucers" flew. An Air Force investigator shot most of them down with a simple explanation—swamp gas.

But policemen, a civil defense director, a house mother and hundreds of college students had seen the mysterious lights, and it is safe to say that not all of them accepted the investigator's conclusion.

The opening of this year's saucer season — the 20th year for "unidentified flying objects," —has presented official Washington with a problem.

Gerald R. Ford, House Republican leader, inected a new element by calling for a "full-blown" Congressional investigation. Such inquiries have been proposed many times before, but never by one of Mr. Ford's stature in Government.

Mr. Ford had just returned from Michigan. No saucers were sighted in his district and he had no calls from constituents about them. However, he said:

"I can assure you there is considerable interest and I suspect public concern."

Reluctant to Investigate

Congress has been and still is reluctant to investigate. To do so is to encourage the idea that their is more to the unidentified flying objects than mistaken sightings of natural or manmade objects.

To refuse to investigate, however, opens Congress to the charge, often made by fervent believers, that the Government knows what the saucers are but is "covering up."

Mr. Ford suggested that the House Armed Services or the Science and Astronautics Committee hold the investigation.

A spokesman for the Science Committee said the number of "reliable witnesses" who had reported seeing saucers was small compared to all the people who thought they had seen them.

"You can't just select airline pilots and other trained observers to testify," he said. "You have to take anybody who says he's seen one, and you know what that means. Since we handle space, we already get enough people in here who want to tell us how you can fly to the moon on a washboard or something."

A spokesman for the Armed Services Committee said he had

'FLYING OBJECTS' ARE CALLED GAS

Air Force Expert Points to Michigan Sightings Being Made Above Swamps

By WALTER RUGABER
Special to The New York Times

DETROIT, March 25—An investigator for the Air Force said today that at least two of southern Michigan's mysterious "flying objects" were nothing more than marsh gas.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, an astrophysicist at Northwestern University and an Air Force consultant on unidentified flying objects, studied reported sightings this week at Dexter and Hillside, Mich.

These were the "two principal events," Dr. Hynek told a news conference here. There have been repeated reports of unidentified flying objects over southern Michigan in the past week, but the Dexter and Hillsdale incidents were the most widely witnessed.

Shaped Like Football

At Dexter, about 10 miles northwest of Ann Arbor, some 50 persons reported seeing lights and a strange flying object, shaped like a football, over a swamp Sunday night. The closest witnesses said they were about 500 yards away.

The next evening, at Hillsdale, about 70 miles southwest of Ann Arbor, 87 college co-eds took notes on an object that hovered over a swamp outside their dormitory. A college dean and a civil defense official also reported seeing the object.

"It [the object] was in both cases a very localized phenomenon," Dr. Hynek said. "I think this is the most significant point." The consultant, who has investigated unidentified flying objects for many years, added:

"A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space. It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours, or where a soundless secret device would

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"A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space. It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours, or where a soundless secret device would likely be tested."

No Craft Observed

Dr. Hynek said that no group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps. "The glow was localized here," he said. "This could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas."

Rotting vegetation in the swamps produces the gas, Dr. Hynek said, "which can be trapped by ice and winter conditions. When a spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity."

The Air Force's investigator cited other authorities on lights seen in swamps "sometimes right on the ground, sometimes merely floating above it."

"The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another place, giving the illusion of motion," he said.

"No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a time and sometimes for a whole night. Generally there is no smell, and usually no sound—except the popping sound of little explosions."

The astrophysicist emphasized that his explanation did not

Continued on Page 58, Column 6

...Committee on Un-American Activities investigate saucers because "it is un-American to have unidentified objects flying over this country."

No Laughing Matter

The committee, however, does not laugh at those who believe they have seen saucers, he said:

"That might be like laughing at the guy who thought of the submarine for the first time."

Nevertheless, there is some fear in both committees that a "full-blown" investigation might frighten much of the public, no matter what findings resulted, by seeming to indicate concern in Congress.

The Air Force, charged with the defense of the nation's skies, investigates every sighting reported to it. Through the end of last year, it had studied 10,147 such reports.

Last year, 886 sightings were reported—topped only by 1,501 in 1952 and 1,006 in 1957.

Of the 10,147 sightings, 646 remain in the Air Force's "unidentified" category. Most "I.F.O.'s"—identified flying objects—were explained as meteors, stars and planets, or planes, balloons and satellites. But many were thrown into a category called "other."

"Other," in the case of this year's sightings, included tracer bullets, debris in the wind, "poor photo process" and "man on ground," according to the Air Force.

'Some Kind of Vehicle'

No space ships, no little men. Yet this week's reports included that of William Van Horn, a Hillsdale County civil defense director, who said the wavering orange, red and white lights he saw through binoculars definitely came from "some kind of vehicle."

John King, a 22-year-old, Bangor, Me., man, said he shot four times at a 60-foot-long glowing object and hit it. It then zoomed skyward, he said.

"I could hear the elderberry bushes scraping as the thing came toward me," Mr. King said.

A postman in Colorado, a newsman in Wisconsin and an Air Force electronics instructor in Oklahoma all reported seeing mysterious objects last week. The electronics man said a "fish-shaped" craft manned by an "ordinary human" blocked his car near the Texas border. In Texas, the police said hundreds of people reported seeing a starlike object that purred and changed colors.

Noting that "it must be a real dull day, newswise" for his suggestion to get so much attention, Representative Ford said he believed a thorough inquiry would "allay any apprehensions or fears."

"If it is marsh gas, the whole thing could be cleaned up and eliminated as a matter of concern very rapidly," he said.

Meanwhile, the Air Force says it still welcomes any evidence "of the existence and intraspace mobility of extraterrestrial life," particularly if it is "operating within the earth's near-space envelope."

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1966.

40 in Michigan Report Mysterious Flying Objects

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 21 (UPI)—At least 40 persons, including 12 policemen, said today that they saw a strange flying object guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night.

Descriptions of the unidentified flying objects tallied closely. A patrolman, Robert Hunawill, said he and other residents of the area saw similar craft before dawn last Monday and Wednesday.

In Washington, the Air Force said it knew nothing of the reports. The Air Force's Michigan headquarters in Battle Creek would not comment.

Two persons who slogged through the 300-acre swamp today and looked for traces of the craft found nothing but marsh grass, quicksand and muck.

However, the two persons who reportedly were closest to the object, Frank Mannor, 47 years old, and his son, Ronald, 19, said it did not appear to touch the ground but sat on a base of fog.

Fredrick E. Davids, state police commissioner, who is also head of civil defense for Michigan, opened an investigation.

"I used to discount these reports too but now I'm not so sure," he said.

LIGHT

LIGHT

QUILTED SURFACE

LIGHT

United Press International Telephoto

Frank Mannor, a Michigan farmer, drew this sketch of the object he and a number of others said they saw hovering.

Mr. Mannor and his son said they had run to within 500 yards of the object. Mr. Mannor said the craft was shaped like a football and was about the length of a car with a "grayish yellow" hue and a pitted surface "like coral rock."

It had a blue light on one end and a white light on the other, he said.

"They were pulsating and each of them looked like they had a little halo around it," he said.

Other witnesses saw only the lights, but their descriptions, including those of policemen, agreed closely.

Stanley McFadden, Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy, said he and deputy David Fitzpatrick watched the object fly over their car about the same time the Mannors reported it had taken off.

Officer Hunawill said four other unidentified flying objects had hovered in a quarter-circle over the object in the swamp.

Those Flying Saucers

Men have a strange propensity for seeing what they expect or want to see, as any magician knows. This trait, probably more than any other, accounts for "flying saucer" episodes like the ones reported yesterday and Monday in Michigan.

The scientific community and the armed forces, as such, have dismissed such reports with thinly disguised scorn. The astronomers say other worlds that could support beings like ourselves are so distant that travel here would border on the impossible and frequent visits would be preposterous. Despite the many authentic-sounding reports, military investigators say they have not found a single piece of reliable evidence of such a visit.

Yet seemingly sober citizens take these reports seriously—retired military officers, local constables and a few members of college faculties. Some of them are persuaded that the press and Government are conspiring to conceal the truth about these so-called visits.

The most plausible explanation seems to be that the skies today are alive with man-made phenomena that produce a variety of strange effects. People who are conditioned by television, comic strips and books to believe in flying saucers find it easy to see them in these phenomena. Their memory of what they saw, in subsequent interviews, is elaborated by their expectations.

Yet even the scientists themselves can be fooled by their hopes and expectations. This human trait is recognized in the drug-testing method in which neither subject nor experimenter knows, in any individual case, if the administered pill is the actual drug or a dummy. The nonexistent "canals" of Mars are a notorious example of the wish being father to the observation. Early in this century astronomers thought they saw them in elaborate networks; but they are invisible in the telescopes of today.

The flying saucer enthusiasts demonstrate human frailties that are likely to sail on forever.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1959.

FLYING 'LIGHTS' SIGHTED

5 Planes Report High-Speed Objects Over the Pacific

SAN FRANCISCO, July 11 (UPI)—The pilots of five trans-Pacific airplanes reported seeing a group of "extremely bright lights" flying at high speed over the ocean early today.

A Pan American spokesman here said that the first report of the unidentified flying object had come from Capt. George Wilson, commander of a DC-7C clipper on the way from San Francisco to Honolulu.

"They were extremely bright lights, surrounded by small lights," Captain Wilson said. "They approached us at approximately 21,000 feet altitude.

"They were closing in rapidly. The objects then headed south. After about ten seconds all of the lights disappeared.

He said the objects passed at 6:02 A. M.

He was about 840 miles from Honolulu at the time.

All the later, similar reports also came from planes bound for Honolulu.

Earhart Scholarship

SPOKANE, Wash., July 11 (AP) — Cora McDonald, who teaches teenagers to fly in her spart time, was awarded the 1959 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship last night. Miss McDonald, of Biloxi, Miss., is a radar instructor at Kessler Air Force Base. She is the sixteenth woman to receive the award "perpetuating the ideals of the late, famed flier." The award was presented by the Ninety - Nines, an international flying organization of which Miss Earhart was the first president.

87 Coeds Saw a Flying Object Near a Dormitory in Michigan

HILLSDALE, Mich., March 22 (UPI)—A civil defense director, an assistant dean and 87 coeds reported that a glowing object flew past a college dormitory and hovered in a swamp for hours.

Their description of the object tallied closely with that of one seen by more than 50 persons, including 12 policemen, near Ann Arbor, Mich., the previous night.

The Air Force dispatched its top scientific adviser on unidentified flying objects to begin an investigation.

The witnesses said they watched from the second floor of a Hillsdale College dormitory as the object wobbled, wavered, glowed, and once flew right at a dormitory window before stopping suddenly.

Mrs. Kelly Hearn, for seven years a newspaper reporter before becoming assistant dean of women, assistant professor of English and housemother of the dormitory, had the coeds take notes as they watched the object for four hours.

They and William Van Horn, 41 years old, Hillsdale County civil defense director, said the object dimmed its lights when police cars approached, brightened again when they went away, and dodged an airport beacon light.

Barbara Kohn, 21, of New Castle, Pa., and Cynthia Poffenberger, 18, of Cleveland were the first to see the object. They described its shape as roughly that of a football. This was roughly the same description given by a man and his son who reported that they saw an eerie object land in a swamp Sunday night 45 miles northeast of here near Ann Arbor.

The Air Force announced it was bringing in Dr. H. Allen Hynek chairman of Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and scientific consultant to the Air Force's Project Blue Book program to track down the reports of unidentified flying objects.

Dr. Hynek set up his headquarters at Selfridge Air Force Base, Mount Clemens, Mich., near the southern Michigan section where the objects have been reported several times lately.

"It was definitely some kind of vehicle," Mr. Van Horn said. "Through the glasses [binoculars] it was either round or oblong."

The object's shape was briefly outlined by lightning as it veered over and near the dormitory before retreating into the swamp, Miss Kohn said. It stayed there for four hours before vanishing, witnesses said.

Peruvians Clarify 1941 Role

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 22—The Peruvian mission to the United Nations called attention today to an incorrect statement, published March 13 in The New York Times, that Peru had occupied Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1941. Peruvian sources said that Peru's troops had never attacked or occupied Guayaquil.

'FLYING OBJECTS' ARE CALLED GAS

Continued From Page 31

"cover the entire U.F.O. phenomena over the past 20 years" and that very few sightings could in fact be attributed to marsh gas.

Dr. Hynek dismissed pictures of another phenomenon he said were taken on March 17 near Milan, Mich. The consultant said the photographs were "without any question" only time exposures of a rising moon and the planet Venus.

"There has been a flood of other reports from this area and I could not possibly have had the time to investigate all of these," Dr. Hynek said. They were of little scientific significance, he added, because there were no substantial groups of witnesses who agreed on what they had seen.

The consultant said that "over and above the sincere and honest reporting of a very puzzling sighting" by the coeds at Hillsdale, "certain young men have played pranks with flares."

The consultant agreed with a questioner that the "flying saucer" phenomenon could be an interesting field of study for other specialists such as psychologists and sociologists. His investigation here, he said, was over.

Ford to Ask Inquiry

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 25—Representative Gerald R. Ford, House Republican leader, said today he would ask chairmen of the House Armed Services and Science and Astronautics Committees to consider "full-blown" investigations of unidentified flying objects.

Several hundred persons have reported seeing mysterious lights in Mr. Ford's home state of Michigan this week.

No Congressional leader has called for such an investigation before. Mr. Ford said he was in Michigan last night and this morning "and I can assure you there is interest and I suspect public concern" over the sightings.

If swamp gas caused the lights, as investigators suggested today, the Air Force should have no hesitancy in explaining that to a committee, Mr. Ford said.

A spokesman for the Science and Astronautics Committee said he thought the problem fell within the Armed Services Committee's jurisdiction, since the Air Force investigates "flying saucers."

COAST GUARD GETS NEW COMMANDANT

WASHINGTON, March 25 (AP)—The Senate confirmed today the appointment of Adm. Willard J. Smith as commandant of the Coast Guard.

Without objection, it also approved by voice vote the promotion of Capts. William B. Ellis, Douglas B. Henderson, Russell R. Waesche and Mark A. Whalen to rear admirals in the Coast Guard.

The new commandant, a 55-year-old native of Suttons Bay, Mich., is the son of a retired Coast Guard warrant officer.

Admiral Smith was graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn., as an ensign in 1933 and rose through the ranks to rear admiral on July 1, 1962.

During a long career as a line officer, he served aboard cutters, took flight training and was graduated a Coast Guard aviator, and did much flying in the Pacific during World War II.

Following his promotion to flag rank, he was appointed Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, a post he held until last July when he was transferred to Cleveland to command the Ninth Coast Guard District.

Admiral Smith will take his new post May 31. He will relieve Adm. Edwin J. Roland, who will retire.

AIR FORCE STUDYING OBJECT OVER ALASKA

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Feb. 16 (AP)—A silvery object flashed through western Alaska skies late Sunday trailing flames.

The Alaska Air Command is investigating.

The object was reported by several persons from Nome to St. Michael, about 150 miles away. They said it appeared from the direction of Siberia and hurtled southeasterly.

The reports were conflicting, Maj. Roy E. Haines, public information officer at Elmendorf Air Force base here, said yesterday.

"Some had it low and slow. Some had it high and fast," he said.

Pete Walsh, Wien Alaska Airlines employe at Nome, said the object was traveling at tremendous speed at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 feet.

Observers said the object curved up and away as it approached Cape Nome, as if it was manned and controlled.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Feb. 16 (AP)—A spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command here confirmed today that two unidentified flying objects were observed over Alaska.

One was reported in the vicinity of Nome. The second was reportedly sighted at Umalakleet, moving rapidly northwest.

AIR FORCE ORDER ON 'SAUCERS' CITED

Pamphlet by the Inspector General Called Objects a 'Serious Business'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (UPI)—The Air Force has sent its commands a warning to treat sightings of unidentified flying objects as "serious business" directly related to the nation's defense, it was learned today.

An Air Force spokesman confirmed issuance of the directive after portions of it were made public by a private "flying saucer" group.

The new regulations were issued by the Air Force inspector general Dec. 24.

The regulations, revising similar ones issued in the past, outlined procedures and said that "investigations and analysis of UFO's are directly related to the Air Force's responsibility for the defense of the United States."

Committee Reveals Document

Existence of the document was revealed by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

The privately financed committee accused the Air Force of deception in publicly describing reports of unidentified flying objects as delusions and hoaxes while sending the private admonition to its commands.

Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter (Ret.), a committee board member and former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said in a statement that a copy of the inspector general's warning had been sent to the Senate Science and Astronautics Committee.

"It is time for the truth to be brought out in open Congressional hearings," he said.

The Air Force confirmed that the document had been issued. A spokesman said it was put out by Maj. Gen. Richard E. O'Keefe, acting inspector general at the time, to call attention to revised Air Force regulations concerning unidentified flying objects.

The statement was included in an "operations and training" pamphlet circulated at intervals to bring commands up to date.

Pentagon aides said the new regulations covering seven printed pages, made no substantive change in policy but had been rewritten as a matter of course.

The Air Force has investigated 6,312 reports of flying objects since 1947, including 183 in the last six months of 1959. The latest Air Force statement, issued a month ago said "no physical or material evidence, not even a minute fragment of a so-called flying sauceer, has ever been found."

Admiral Hillenkoetter said that "behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFO's."

"But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense," the retired admiral said. He charged that "to hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel" through the issuance of a regulation.

Derailed Car Lands in Store

MASON, Mich., Feb. 27 (UPI)—A boxcar landed in the basement of a lumber store and another plowed into a warehouse today when twenty-two cars of a New York Central freight train were derailed here. The car in the basement had gone through the show window of the store.

Ex-U. S. Counsel Joins Firm

Thomas J. McDermott, whose resignation as Associate General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board was effective Friday, will become associated with the law firm of Davies, Hardy & Schenck, 2 Broadway.

Dr. Jung Says 'Saucers' Exist; Bars Psychological Explanations

Requests Air Force Publish 'Authentic' Account of Facts —Cites 14-Year Study

Associated Press
Dr. Carl Jung

ALAMOGORDO, N. M., July 29 (AP)—One of the world's most eminent psychologists reports that unidentified flying objects are not quirks of imagination.

Dr. Carl Jung, who studied under Sigmund Freud, said that if they came from other planets they could bring an enforced peace—and universal panic—to the world.

Dr. Jung, 83, now lives in Zurich, Switzerland. He evolved the theory of the psychological complex—an explanation of abnormal behavior. He wrote his speculations on "Unidentified Flying Objects" in the monthly bulletin of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, a private organization with headquarters here.

"I can only say for certain that the things are not a mere rumor, something has been seen," Dr. Jung said. "A purely psychological explanation is ruled out."

He said he had studied reports of U. F. O.'s since 1944, and he said, they "show signs of intelligent guidance by quasi-human beings."

The Air Force, which has consistently reported no evidence that U. F. O.'s exist, would not comment on Dr. Jung's statement other than to say that neither Dr. Jung nor L. J. Lorenzen, phenomena research official who declared Dr. Jung's writing, were direct employes of the Government.

Should the extra-terrestrial origin of the U. F. O.'s be proven, Dr. Jung said, it might have the same effect on the human race that superior technology of Western Europeans had on primitive cultures.

"What astonishes me," Dr. Jung wrote, "is that the American Air Force, despite all the information in its so-called fear of creating panic seems to work systematically to do that very thing. It has never yet published an authentic and certain account of the facts."

WASHINGTON, July 29 (AP)—A Washington psychiatrist said today that he knew of no American psychiatrist who believed—at present at least—that "flying saucers" were spacecraft from another planet.

The statement was made by Dr. Addison Duval, assistant superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Government Hospital for the Mentally Ill.

He said the sightings of flying saucers were illusions or hallucinations, "more probably illusions."

U. S. AGENTS SEIZE

Visti ieri ad occhio nudo centinaia di dischi volanti

Sono apparsi in Italia, nel Portogallo, in America e nel Messico

Ancona 21 marzo, notte.

Una notizia che sta largamente diffondendosi a Jesi è quella dell'apparizione nella zona di un disco volante. Una famiglia di contadini, mentre era intenta ai lavori agricoli, avrebbe visto nel cielo all'altezza di circa 2000 metri un ordigno lucentissimo e immobile. Sembrava, racconta uno dei testimoni oculari, che girasse vorticosamente su se stesso. L'apparizione durò una ventina di secondi, poi il disco si innalzò e scomparve alla vista.

I guardiacoste del *Portogallo* settentrionale riferiscono di aver visto ieri decine e decine di dischi volanti sorvolare le coste portoghesi in fila e in altre formazioni. Essi affermano che i dischi si muovevano verso ovest «più velocemente delle pallottole traccianti».

Anche numerose persone di Oporto, Leixos e Duoro sostengono di aver visto «globi di fuoco».

Un pilota di Chicago e un altro delle linee aeree meridionali hanno affermato di aver visto un «disco volante» sopra *Stuttgart* nell'Arkansas.

Il capitano Jack Adams di Memphis ha comunicato per radio che egli ed il pilota G. Andersen hanno visto il disco volante mentre erano sulla rotta fra *Rock* (Arkansas) e *Shreveport* (Luisiana). Adams ha dichiarato che il disco è comparso improvvisamente sulla loro rotta a circa trecento metri al di sopra dell'aereo, ed è scomparso dalla vista dopo un quarantina di secondi, alla velocità di circa novecento chilometri orari. Secondo le affermazioni di Adams il misterioso disco aveva finestre praticate nella parte inferiore ed una luce alla sommità che occhieggiava rapidamente.

Si segnala, infine, da *Tuxla-Gutierrez*, capitale dello Stato di Chiapas (Messico), il passaggio di oltre 100 dischi volanti. Il cielo della città era letteralmente costellato di dischi argentati che procedevano ad una velocità fantastica, e che due ore più tardi dileguavano in direzione nord-occidentale. Lo spettacolo era perfettamente visibile anche senza binocoli, per cui si dovrebbe escludere, che si sia trattato di psicosi collettiva.

... i rottami, sono rimasti gravemente feriti. Soccorsi poco dopo e liberati a stento, essi venivano trasportati all'ospedale di Broni, dove Giuseppe Della Porta, avendo riportato la sospetta frattura del cranio, versa in imminente pericolo di vita, e gli altri tre, gravemente feriti, sono stati ricoverati con prognosi riservata.

Moto travolta da un camion presso Catanzaro

Un morto e un ferito

Catanzaro 21 marzo, notte.

Sulla provinciale Catanzaro-Taverna, una motoleggera sulla quale viaggiavano gli impiegati postelegrafonici Vincenzo De Stefano, da Reggio Calabria, che la pilotava, e Pantaleone Sgranci, da Montauro di Catanzaro, si è scontrata oggi in curva, a 4 km. da Catanzaro, con un grosso autocarro, ed è stata travolta dal pesante veicolo. Il De Stefano è rimasto ucciso sul colpo, mentre lo Sgranci, sbalzato a poca distanza, ha riportato ferite sotto il mento.

Un altro sindaco sospeso dalle sue funzioni

Rovigo 21 marzo, notte.

Con decreto del prefetto di Rovigo, il sindaco di Fiesso Umbertiano, Giovanni Magrini, già arrestato per resistenza e oltraggio alla forza pubblica, è stato sospeso dalle sue funzioni per sei mesi. Il prefetto ha, inoltre, richiamato vari altri sindaci del Polesine all'osservanza dei limiti delle loro funzioni.

Assolto un marito tradito che provocato uccise il rivale

Verona 21 marzo, notte.

L'autore di un delitto passionale, il quarantatreenne Agostino Gagliardi, impiegato della Società elettrica interprovinciale di Verona, è comparso oggi alle Assise, per rispondere di aver ucciso con quattro colpi di rivoltella a bruciapelo, davanti alla propria abitazione, in via Dietro Riva San Lorenzo, il pittore Bruno Chiavenati di 35 anni, che molto tempo fa, in casa

UNEMPLOYMENT Insurance—Cont
ble for benefits, Ja 5,1:8; claims to be backdated and processed by mail for those unable to get to NYSES offices, Ja 8,1:4; Gov Rockefeller confirms those unable to rept to work may get benefits, Ja 9, 42:4; 8,000 file for them, Ja 11,16:8; Rockefeller waives 7-day waiting period, Ja 12,1:7; those eligible may file until Jan 28, Ja 14,29:4

NYS: 57,000 claim benefits because of strike, Ja 25,34:7; US and NYS grant NYC employers 4-wk extension in filing tax repts because of strike, Ja 28,8:2

NYS: employers assessed for unemployment taxes on wages paid full-time domestics, Jan-Mar; legis, passed in Apr '65, replaces law requiring only employers of 4 or more full-time domestics to pay tax, Ap 7,41:1

NYS: Assembly passes bill reducing from 20 to 15 wks work time required, in 51-wk period, to qualify for benefits; sets earning of $1,000 over 52-wk period as alternate requirement, My 17,33:1; new law, requiring those who pay domestics $500 or more during calendar qr to pay unemployment ins to cover them, discussed, Jl 23,26:6; Dem party platform pledges efforts to update compensation laws; excerpts, S 8,50:5; W Chan pleads guilty to attempted forgery in collecting $18,400 in benefits through use of ficticious names, D 17,24:1

PENNA: Employment Security Bur repts $3.8-billion paid out in 30 yrs, My 8,29:2; Gov Scranton authorizes repayment of $90.5-million unemployment compensation debt to Fed Govt, O 29,60:4

US: **See** state name pars. For supplementary co benefits (guaranteed annual wage), **see** Labor—US, guaranteed annual wage par. Indus names

US: Pres Johnson pledges improved program, State of Union Message; transcript, Ja 13,14:3,7; asks improvements, Econ Rept to Cong, Ja 28,15:5; text, Ja 28,15:3; Labor Dept repts 290,700 claims, Jan 8-15, 37,000 below '65 period, Ja 29,10:4; labor leaders, unhappy over fate of bill to repeal state 'right-to-work' laws, to press for higher benefits and wider coverage, F 12,13:1; new claims drop 20% to 255,000, wk, lowest Feb level since Korean War, F 19,21:7; Sen Tower opposes extending Fed benefits, s, Tex AFL-CIO, Mr 6,46:5; Labor Dept repts workers drawing benefits at end of 1st qr dropped 71,000 to 1,152,700, 2.6% of those covered, as against 1,598,900, or 3.7%, in '65 period; other data, Ap 16,14:8

US: Sec Wirtz assails US C of C pub which held Adm bill would raise maximum unemployment compensation to at least ½ avg wkly earnings of workers; says it failed to note that benefits could not exceed 50% of individual worker's earnings, My 3, 35:6; HR com seen set to shelve Adm bill, My 13, 21:3

US: HR com rejects Pres Johnson proposals to set Fed standards for benefits; approves bill extending compensation to about 3.5-million workers and providing additional 13 wks benefits during recession periods; bill seen as major setback for both Pres and labor; grants coverage to 1.2-million other workers whose employers hire 1 or more persons for at least 20 wks a yr and who pay total wages of $1,500 in any yrly 3-month period; coverage will include 1.9-million employes of non-profit orgns, state hosps and educ insts and 200,000 others under a new definition of 'employe'; bill calls for $272-million increase in employer taxes in '67, rising to $568-million by '72, My 19,30:3; Labor Dept repts new claims at lowest point since Oct '52, My 21,8:4; number put at 146,700, My 28,22:4; AFL-CIO to seek Sen help in restoring Fed standards to bill, My 28,24:1

US: HR, 374-10, passes bill to extend benefits to 3.5-million more workers; rejects Adm proposal to set Fed standards; bill expands benefits during recession periods, raises Fed tax on employers from 0.4% to 0.6%, raises base for tax from $3,000 to $3,900 in '69 and to $4,200 in '72 and permits states to appeal to cts from Labor Sec rulings in disputes over adm of system, Je 23,19:3; ed scores bill, favors original Adm proposals, Je 25,30:1

US: Sen Finance Com, 9-8, approves bill requiring states to meet Fed standards; legis would give benefits equal to 50% of employe's wage, up to maximum of 50% of a state's avg wage, for 26 wks and extend coverage to 2.3-million more workers; benefits of up to ½ regular compensation would be extended for additional 13 wks during periods of recession, Jl 29,18:1

US: Sen approves parts of bill to set natl standards on jobless benefits, Ag 6,52:5; **Sen, 53-31, approves legis setting Fed standards for benefits;** major victory or organized labor seen; bill would require states to pay wkly benefits of 50% of worker's avg wkly wage or 50% of state's avg wkly wage, whichever is less, and make eligible workers who were employed at least 20 wks of yr; states must pay at least 26 wks benefits to those who were employed 39 mos or more; bill provides added 13-wks benefits during periods of recession, extends coverage to 2.3-million more workers and raises present 3.1% tax paid by employers to 3.3% in '67; raises $3,000 wage base on which tax is paid to $3,900 in '68 and to $4,800 in '72, Ag 9,1:8; ed urges HR to amend bill to extend coverage to more than 1.2-million workers in small cos excluded in Sen version, Ag 10,40:1; **NY-NJ-Conn Sen roll-call** on amendments, Ag 15,14:7

US: ed urges Cong pass compensation bill based on Sen version setting uniform Fed standards and providing Fed funds to states, O 19,46:1; **Cong conf fails to agree on compromise; bill declared dead,** O 22,1:8; G Meany, in AFL-CIO pub, says labor will renew fight for it, O 25,27:8

US: G Meany says AFL-CIO will push in 90th Cong for legis setting Fed standards for compensation, N 16,28:1

UNESCO. See Educ, Scientific and Cultural Orgn

UNEXCELLED Chemical Corp. R C Schoenhaar elected pres, J M Crosby chmn, F 15,57:2

UNGAR, Sidney J. Disbarred for conduct at '60 trial of then Boro Pres Jack, Ap 22,19:1

UNGER, Leonard. See Vietnam F 6 in ¶60

UNGER, Seymour M. See NYC—Depts, Bldgs par N 2

UNGER, Stanley M. See Bldg Service Employes S 11

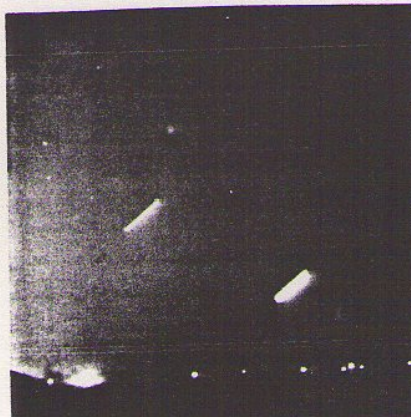
UNGERLEIDER, (Dr) J Thomas. See Drug Addiction Ag 10 in 2d Ag 1 par

UNICEF. See Children's Fund, UN

UNICO (Orgn). See Crime—US, S 27

UNIDENTIFIED Flying Objects (UFO)

Object reptd, Wanaque, NJ; USAF discounts rept, Ja 14,18:3; RAAF probes reptd sightings, N Queensland, Ja 24,10:4; flying saucer buffs discuss ways to improve communications with objects, conv, Los Angeles, F 7,15:6

At least 40 rept flying object and 4 sister ships landed in swamp near Ann Arbor, Mich, 3 times in wk; craft described; sketch, Mr 22,18:5; CD dir, asst dean and 87 students rept sighting object near Hillsdale Coll, Mich, Mr 23,22:2; ed discounts repts, Mr 23,46:2; Ann Arbor deputy sheriff shows photos of streaks of light allegedly made by objects; photo illus, Mr 25,43:5; USAF investigator Dr Hynek says at least 2 sightings were result of release of swamp gas, news conf; says photos were time exposures of rising moon and planet Venus; links other sightings to pranksters; ends probe; Repr Ford to ask 'full-blown' Cong study, Mr 26,31:4; Cong reluctant to probe, Mr 27,61:1; comment on sightings; sketches; cartoon, Mr 27,IV,2:1; sightings reptd, Bad Axe and Hillsdale County, Mich, Mr 28,48:7; Natl Investigating Com on Aerial Phenomena urges Govt release all data; dir, Maj D E Keyhoe (ret), cites evidence supporting UFO existence, news conf, Mr 29,14:8; R Baker on sightings, Mr 29,40:3

Meteorites or Martians or Marsh Gas? A photo of objects in the Michigan sky taken by a local deputy.

Lr disputes Mar 23 ed discounting UFOs, Ap 1, 34:4; G Chuvalo among hundreds who reptdly saw UFOs in Toronto area, Ap 1,39:5; Prof Teller calls UFOs miracles, TV int, Ap 4,33:8; USAF Sec Brown says there is no evidence of visits from outer space, HR com; says nearly all of 10,147 sightings in last 19 yrs were easily explained, Ap 6,53:4

2 Ohio deputy sheriffs rept they followed flying object about 85 mi; another sighting reptd, Benton Harbor, Mich, Ap 18,30:1; Repr Ford repts USAF has contracted with scientists group to make ind study of sightings, Ap 22,28:2

IATA Dir Gen Hammarskjold says UFOs may actually be 'neighbors in space,' s, Aviation and Space Writers Assn, My 24,94:8; USAF to contract with univs for scientific teams to study sightings, Jl 15,16:4

Australian air force probes reptd sighting near Sydney, Ag 13,5:6; USAF seeks to contract with leading unidentified univ to make intensive studies of reptd sightings; move marks departure from previous policy but does not indicate USAF now places credibility in repts; seen effort to refute charges that USAF conceals data, Ag 14,1:3

Aviation Wk & Space Technology (pub) article holds many 'flying saucers' may be balls of ionized air originating along high-tension elec power lines, Ag 23,36:5

UNIDENTIFIED Flying Objects—Cont

Books Incident at Exeter, by J G Fuller, and Flying Saucers—Serious Business, by F Edwards, revd, Ag 27,27:3; revd with book Anatomy of a Phenomenon, by J Vallee, Ag 28,VII,p2

Northwestern U astronomy dept chmn Dr Hynek urges scientific study; charges scientists have avoided study for fear of 'injuring professional standing'; scores assumption that all repts were work of hysterics, cranks or unreliable people, S 18,62:5

Colo U gets USAF contract for 15-mo study headed by Dr E Condon; Drs F E Roach, S W Cook and R J Low aides; Condon says USAF has pledged to give group all data it has on subject, O 8,15:5; sightings reptd, Wanaque, NJ, and Pierre, SD, O 12, 21:3

Prof McDonald urges NASA, Natl Science Foundation or like orgn without vested interest open study of reptd sightings; says 18 yrs of 'adm foul-up' by USAF and deliberate Govt debunking have frightened away scientists, confused pub, O 21,9:1; 5 Suffolk County, NY, policemen rept sighting object over Patchogue, O 22,20:7; sightings reptd, Goldsboro, NC, and Randolph Twp, NJ, O 25,11:1; Suffolk County, NY, police get over 50 calls reptg sightings, O 29,60:5; NYU cosmic research center dir Dr Korff says giant balloons sent aloft to test upper atmosphere may have been responsible for many reptd sightings, O 30,44:5

NASA repts 3 unidentified objects were discovered in orbit, May and June, but mil officials opposed reptg them to avoid giving basis to 'flying saucer' claims; Suffolk County (NY) Air Force Base repts recent sightings were stars, satellites or aircraft; 20 other sightings under study, N 1,19:2,5; article on growing number of UFO clubs and reptd sightings throughout US, N 14,41:1; sightings reptd in 4 northern NJ areas, N 15,38:2

Condon discusses plans for USAF-sponsored research project, N 16,28:3

Sighting, San Carlos, Calif, D 6,93:7

UNIFORM Supply Co. Cited as example of how NYC can stem outward flow of indus by finding suitable space for plant expansion; co pres Siegel comments, N 25,63:1

UNIFORMS, Military. See Apparel—US—Mil. US Armament. Geog headings except US (subdiv Armament where subdivided)

UNIFORMS, Non-Military. See Airlines—US, routes par Je 28. Boy Scouts Je 10. Eton Coll Ja 19,30. Girl Scouts N 2. Met Museum of Art D 13. Nazism Ap 26, My 13,18. NYC—Depts, Bldgs pars Ja 31, F 15,21, Mr 24, Ap 2, My 5,7, Je 15. NYC—Police, uniforms par. NYC Transit—Gen, crime par Ag 8,18. NYC Transit—Labor S 29. Olympic Games, '68 games pars O 2,16. Traffic—NYC, school crossings par My 5

UNILEVER Ltd and Unilever NV. See also Cleansers O 27 ▲Annual rept, F 23,55:2

UNIMATION Inc. See Robots Jl 31

UNION Asphalt & Roadoils Inc. See Roads—Iowa. Roads—Kan Ap 6, S 13, N 22

UNION Bag-Camp Paper Corp. Proposes name change to Union Camp Corp, Mr 22,55:4; stockholders approve, Ap 27,60:3; change noted, My 19, 76:3 (**see also** Union Camp)

UNION Bank (Los Angeles). O Chandler, S C Corwin, J P Giles, F L Hartley elected dirs, F 15,60:1

UNION Bank of Switzerland. See Internationale Industrie- und Handelsbeteiligungen S 10

UNION Camp Corp. See also Paper—US, O 20 ▲Proposed as new name for Union Bag-Camp Paper Corp, Mr 22,55:4; stockholders approve, Ap 27,70:3; change made, My 19,76:3; R M Brown Jr elected dir, S 1,52:3

UNION Carbide Corp. See also Acrylic Acid Mr 3. Art—Shows—Gen, misc par Mr 26, Ap 3. Astronautics D 22 in ¶132. Batteries N 30. Carbon Je 8. Electronics D 20. Hampton Inst O 9. Hats F 10. Plastics F 25, Ap 2,14, Ag 27, S 1,9, D 14. Ports—US, Boston par Ag 26. Steel—US, labor par D 15ff. Surgery D 10. Textiles, US (gen) par D 22. Div and subsidiary names, eg, Neisler Labs, Stellite

To begin producing spandex fiber, expand facilities for modacrylic fiber at chem complex, Inst, W Va, Mr 1,47:5; C J Chapman named exec vp of mining and metals div, Ap 5,62:4; B Mason Jr named corp chmn and chief exec, K Rush pres, A S Johnson exec vp, Ap 28,61:2; mgt of foreign operations revamped; 3 new subsidiaries to be formed, My 20, 75:2; Mason role discussed, My 22,III,3:3; Johnson elected dir, My 27,67:2; electronics div formed; R A Charpie pres, Je 1,74:2; J F Warnell elected consumer products div pres, Ag 10,59:2; ethylene and ethylene oxide facilities to be built in Tex and La, N 5,39:2; W S Gray Jr apptd exec vp, N 17,78:1; price of solvents used in coatings raised, D 15,84:1

UNION College (Lincoln, Neb). See US Armament—Draft My 15

UNION College and Univ (NYS). Coll opens 10-yr, $30-million fund raising drive; sets $12.5-million goal for 1st 3 yrs, O 30,85:1

UNION County Trust Co (Elizabeth, NJ). See Bank Robberies

UNION Dime Savings Bank (NYC). See Banks—US, savings par Jl 1

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 13, 19

Sky Watchers on Alert as Saucer Season Arrives

By WALTER SULLIVAN

With earth's messenger, Mariner 4, nearing Mars, the flying saucer enthusiasts are having a field day with a rash of reports on strange visitations to the earth.

Whether or not they are aware of it, this is the time when space probers would be arriving from Mars, if inhabitants of that planet were engaged in a similar effort. The earth overtakes Mars every two years and two months, coming within a few dozen million miles of it.

There was such an approach this spring. The United States and the Soviet Union anticipated it by firing vehicles towards Mars last November. If there were any Martians equipped to do so, they would have fired their vehicles towards earth about the same time.

The American craft, Mariner 4, is due to pass close to Mars tomorrow evening. The Soviet vehicle, whose radio is apparently dead, is not far behind it.

Reports of unidentified flying objects seem to come in batches, as though one report brings on others. The current series began with an episode, Jan. 3, at Deception Island in the Antarctic. Chilean and Argentine stations there reported that a lens-shaped object flew over at night, hovering for a number of minutes and changing color from red and green to yellow, blue, white and orange.

There reportedly was interference with radio transmissions during this time, although the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory Forecast Center in Virginia reports no general magnetic disturbance that could have accounted for such interference.

This was followed by reports from Britain of a fiery object in the sky and one from France of a football-shaped vehicle with four legs that landed in a field. From Portugal and the Azores yesterday came accounts of strange objects seen in the sky last weekend, again with reports of radio interference.

The Air Force has repeatedly said that, while there was not always sufficient information to explain such reports, none were believed to represent visitations from beyond the earth. Those impressed by the sightings have often charged the Government with suppressing the facts.

The scientific community, in general, seems to regard the sightings as a manifestation of the power of mass suggestion rather than as evidence of extraterristrial life.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1966.

Congress Reassured on Space Visits

WASHINGTON, April 5 (AP)—The Secretary of the Air Force assured a Congressional committee today there was no evidence that the earth ever had been visited by strangers from outer space.

Dr. Harold Brown said almost all of the 10,147 unidentified flying objects reported in the last 19 years were easily explained, including the recent sightings in Michigan.

Marsh gases, pranks, planets, comets, meteors, fireballs and auroral streamers were causes he listed for most of the strange, bright objects seen flying through the heavens.

But he told the House Armed Services Committee the "Air Force has an open mind" and would continue to investigate all reports.

Associated Press

Dr. Harold Brown

FLYING SAUCERS DOUBTED BY U.S.

Air Force Study Provides Down-to-Earth Answers

DAYTON, Ohio, Aug. 28 (AP)—The Air Force does not believe in flying saucers.

This is not just a snap conclusion. It is based on the investigation of more than 9,000 reported unidentified flying objects by Project Blue Book, the Air Force's—and in fact the Government's—agency charged with analyzing aerial phenomenon.

"There is nothing to indicate that any of these phenomena are extraterrestrial in nature," said Maj. Hector Quintanilla Jr., a serious, 42-year-old physicist in charge of the project.

Earlier this month numerous sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported in at least eight states—mostly in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Major Quintanilla asserts that many persons who make such reports actually were looking at the planet Jupiter and four prominent stars.

Atmospheric conditions "gave them a scintallating effect" and made them appear close together and in formation, he noted.

What about reports that Tinker Air Force Base at Oklahoma City and the Weather Bureau at Wichita, Kan., spotted such objects on radar? he was asked.

"They never said they had spotted these particular U.F.O.'s," the major replied, "they said they had sighted something they coldn't identify and since everyone was seeing things, people put two and two together."

"The radar sighting at Tinker was on the opposite side of the spectrum as the reported U.F.O. sightings," he added.

Fine, but what was it radar had fixed on?

"A building, we think at this point," he said. "An inversion [an atmospheric condition brought on by the meeting of fronts and varying temperatures] caused the radar beams to bounce off and fix on something on the ground.

"The Tinker fix remained stationary on the radarscope for 40 minutes, indicating something not moving. Don't forget, the sighted U.F.O.'s were reported as moving."

One Explanation

The major explained that inversions are responsible for many such sightings involving radar. If the ricochheted radar beam fixes on a truck or a train moving away from the radar facility, he said, it gives the impression of a high-flying unidentified object.

"The first thing I do when I get a reported sighting is check the weather in the area and my

for "unidentified flying objects."—has presented official Washington with a problem.

Gerald R. Ford, House Republican leader, inected a new element by calling for a "full-blown" Congressional investigation. Such inquiries have been proposed many times before, but never by one of Mr. Ford's stature in Government.

Mr. Ford had just returned from Michigan. No saucers were sighted in his district and he had no calls from constituents about them. However, he said:

"I can assure you there is considerable interest and I suspect public concern."

Reluctant to Investigate

Congress has been and still is reluctant to investigate. To do so is to encourage the idea that their is more to the unidentified flying objects than mistaken sightings of natural or manmade objects.

To refuse to investigate, however, opens Congress to the charge, often made by fervent believers, that the Government knows what the saucers are but is "covering up."

Mr. Ford suggested that the House Armed Services or the Science and Astronautics Committee hold the investigation.

A spokesman for the Science Committee said the number of "reliable witnesses" who had reported seeing saucers was small compared to all the people who thought they had seen them.

"You can't just select airline pilots and other trained observers to testify," he said. "You have to take anybody who says he's seen one, and you know what that means. Since we handle space, we already get enough people in here who want to tell us how you can fly to the moon on a washboard or something."

A spokesman for the Armed Services Committee said he had once facetiously suggested that the House Committee on Un-American Activities investigate saucers because "it is un-American to have unidentified objects flying over this country."

No Laughing Matter

The committee, however, does not laugh at those who believe they have seen saucers, he said:

"That might be like laughing at the guy who thought of the submarine for the first time."

Nevertheless, there is some fear in both committees that a "full-blown" investigation might frighten much of the public, no matter what findings resulted, by seeming to indicate concern in Congress.

The Air Force, charged with the defense of the nation's skies, investigates every sighting reported to it. Through the end of last year, it had studied 10,147 such reports.

Last year, 886 sightings were reported—topped only by 1,501 in 1952 and 1,006 in 1957.

Of the 10,147 sightings, 646 remain in the Air Force's "unidentified" category. Most "I.F.O.'s"—identified flying objects—were explained as meteors, stars and planets, or planes, balloons and satellites. But many were thrown into a category called "other."

"Other," in the case of this year's sightings, included tracer bullets, debris in the wind, "poor photo process" and "man on ground," according to the Air Force.

'Some Kind of Vehicle'

No space ships, no little men. Yet this week's reports included

ond-in-command of Government, Mr. Humphrey a loyal legislative lieutenant. The assassination reversed their roles.

They could clash again in the 1972 convention—if, as most Democrats hope and believe, the Johnson-Humphrey team serves out a second full term. In anticipation of that struggle, Democrats across the nation this spring are beginning to choose up sides.

Mr. Kennedy's long-term ambitions for the Presidency can be seen in a variety of small, separate moves. There is, for example, his deliberate dissent, far short of an open breach, from Administration policy in Vietnam, Latin America and the Geneva nuclear weapons talks, aimed, it appears, at wooing liberal Democrats hitherto suspicious of him and friendly to Mr. Humphrey.

There is also his brief but successful foray into Mississippi and Alabama, designed to show Southerners critical of his civil rights views that he is not in any visible way an agent of the Red conspiracy.

While Senator Kennedy is using the freedom of his (enforced) isolation from the seat of power to

Supreme Court's "one man, one vote" decision of 1964—a decision whose general thrust has been to strengthen the urban and normally Democratic representation in state legislatures at the expense of the more sparsely populated rural and normally Republican areas. The Court of Appeals took over the task last month after the Democratic-controlled Assembly and the Republican-controlled Senate bogged down in bickering and were unable to agree on a plan. A court-appointed commission drew the district lines.

The plan provides for 57 seats in the Senate and 150 in the Assembly—compared with 65 and 165 at present. The plan will govern the elections next fall, but technically it is temporary pending a constitutional convention in 1967 to consider any proposed changes and to make the lines permanent.

Initial reaction was that the Democrats would easily retain the Assembly in November, but that the Senate could go either way. Political leaders were mainly interested in the Senate because the new senatorial lines will govern the election of delegates to next year's constitutional convention.

The permanent plan that

Is It Inflation?

The big open question in the economy—whether inflation will become serious enough to induce the President to propose a tax increase—remained unresolved last week, but a little more documentation was added to the debate.

First, the President himself surprised an impromptu news conference by reeling off a long list of economic indicators that appeared to show no signs of superboom or overheating.

They included such items as a sharp drop in housing starts, a dip in new orders for durable goods, a leveling of retail sales, a relatively moderate order backlog in durables manufacturing, a leveling of the money supply, and the postponement of several state and local government bond issues, including a huge $435-million issue by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, because of high interest rates.

The President said the situation had to be watched closely, but made clear he was not yet convinced a tax increase would be required to cool off the economy. "We don't want to act prematurely," Mr. Johnson said. "We

excommunicated, for they have no souls."

Thus wrote the English jurist, Sir Edward Coke, in 1612. He apparently was the man who first gave currency to the epithet—"soulless corporation."

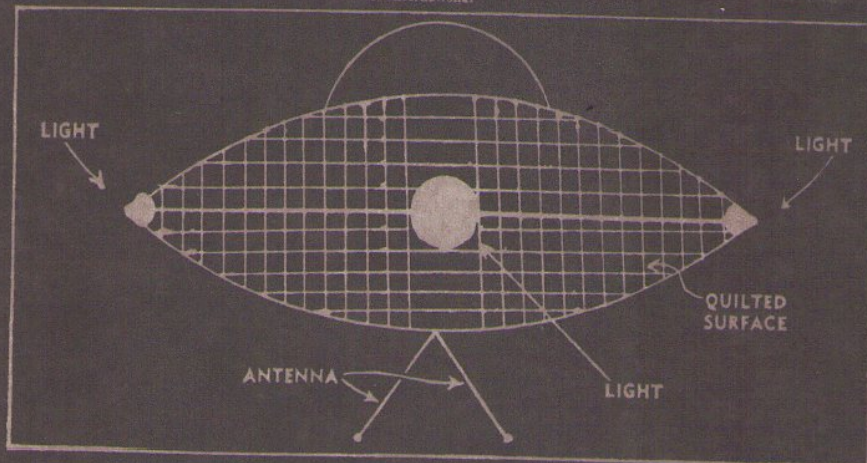
But if corporations still have no souls, their public relations men have provided a corporate equivalent—The Image. And they guard that Madison Avenue "soul" with all the fervor of a fasting acolyte.

Last week both sides of this split personality were on startling display in a single incident. James M. Roche, president of the giant of American industry—General Motors—publicly ate crow for an especially questionable bit of activity by his subordinates.

Mr. Roche's apology stemmed from events that followed publication of a book by Ralph Nader, called "Unsafe At Any Speed," which condemned automobile manufacturers for failing to design available safety features into their cars. Mr. Nader had asserted that around and during the period of his recent testimony on automobile safety before a Senate subcommittee, he was the subject of an intense undercover investigation by private detectives.

The 32-year-old lawyer, who is a

Renfro in The Nation

United Press International

From Leslie and Adamski's "Flying Saucers Have Landed"

PICTURE OF A SAUCER: The top diagram, from a book published in 1953, shows a spacecraft that bears a close resemblance to the composite drawing (below) of an unidentified flying object which many people reported seeing last week in Michigan. The early picture was supposedly produced by a creature from Venus who visited saucer buff George Adamski in California, took away Adamski's negative of his spacecraft, and later returned with this substitute photo image covered with a still undecoded message. The cartoon at top left suggests that some saucer buffs believe the phenomenon is a religious revival.

Flying Saucer? A Nonbeliever Took This Photo

United Press International

This is the photograph a highway department investigator in California said he took on Aug. 3 of an unidentified saucer-like object hovering near the El Toro Marine airfield.

SANTA ANA, Calif., Sept. 21 (UPI)—A county highway department investigator who doesn't believe in flying saucers has photographed a saucer-shaped flying object that has yet to be identified. Rex Heflin, 37 years old, has released three photographs that he says were taken Aug. 3 when the Midwest and Southeast were flooded with reports of unidentified flying objects. Mr. Heflin said he was working near the Santa Ana Marine Corps air facility when he caught a glimpse of a silver object that he estimated to be 30 feet in diameter and eight feet thick. He said it was visible for 15 seconds and moved from west to east, accelerating at about the same speed as a jet. He said the object made no sound, but that a beam of white light rotated underneath the saucer. He said that under a magnifying glass the beam was discernible in one of the photographs.

Continued on Page 3, Column 3

Deputy Sheriff in Michigan Says He Took Pictures as Objects Hovered in Sky

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 24 (AP)—Deputy Sheriff David Fitzpatrick showed photographs today of streaks of light in the sky that he said were made by unidentified flying objects he observed in the sky over southeast Michigan nine days ago.

More than a score of persons, including both deputies and policemen, have reported sighting flying objects at night since then.

Deputy Fitzpatrick made his photographs just outside Milan, Mich., 15 miles south of Ann Arbor, with a Minox Model B camera, roughly the size of a cigarette lighter.

He said the camera, which has a 3.5 lens, was on time exposure for 10 and 12 minutes.

The photographs show two distinct streaks of light high above street lights of Carpenter Road leading into Milan. No detailed objects, however, are visible in the photos, taken at 5:30 A.M.

Observed for 3 Hours

Deputy Fitzpatrick said his camera had been pointed southeast and that Sheriff's Sgt. Nuel K. Schneider also had observed the flying objects from about 4 A.M. to 7 A.M.

"They looked," he said, "like a brilliant light." He said it was a yellow-white light.

Enlarged to 8-by-10 inches from a negative smaller than a postage stamp, the photographs show streaks of light.

Deputy Fitzpatrick said he used his personal camera, film and tripod to make the pictures. The pictures were released by Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey.

Maj. Hector Quintanilla of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio, said earlier today the Air Force hoped to come up with a reasonable explanation of the objects within the next 24 hours. He gave no hint of what it might be.

Young Vandals Use

As passersby and maintenance workers looked on in wonder yesterday, Parks Commissioner Thomas P. F. Hoving scaled the wall of a comfort station to dramatize his fight against vandalism in the parks.

"This is how kids get up here and destroy the roofs," he yelled down from atop the 13-foot-high brick structure in DeWitt Clinton Park. The park is on West 52d Street between 11th and 12th Avenues.

Cement masons, part of the Park Department's new Operation Spruce-up" crew, immediately beveled and smoothed the bricks that Mr. Hoving had used as footholds to reach the top.

The tall, buoyant Commissioner, a former marine, surveyed the Manhattan beginning of the department's program to "revolutionize" the repair of rundown parks. He announced that damage to the city's parks by vandals in February had risen by almost $2,000 over January to an "abnormally high" $19,421.

$1.3-Million Requested

Mr. Hoving also disclosed that earlier this week he had submitted a request for $1.3-million to Budget Director Eugene M. Becker to provide each borough with a permanent special work crew.

Mr. Hoving said that about 35 parks, 10 of them in Manhattan, would be reconditioned in the program by the end of next month.

Four city parks have been refurbished under the program, which began early this month in Brooklyn.

Yesterday's project at DeWitt Clinton Park is the most ambitious yet and is scheduled to be completed at the end of next week at a cost of about $18,000. The seven-acre park has a baseball field, a basketball court, four handball courts, a wading pool and sitting area.

Forty-two men repaired broken slats in benches, patched cracks in the pavement and handball courts — they "hadn't been repaired since W.P.A. days," according to the Commissioner — planted trees and shrubs, fixed broken swings and smoothed the bricks where Mr. Hoving scaled the building.

Mrs. Mary McCartin, a matronly woman who has lived nearby all her life, said she grew up in the park but had not been there in the last four years because of the derelicts.

"I'm really looking forward to coming back this year now," she said.

Feared the Derelicts

"Maybe we'll finally get some people in here and chase away the derelicts," said John J. Henry, treasurer of the Clinton Planning Council, a neighborhood improvement group.

"This is great, Tom," said Councilman Theodore S. Weiss, whose district runs from 33d Street to 109th Street on the West Side, "but how about getting us some more parks here?"

"Sure, dad," replied Commissioner Hoving, "but how about getting me some more money?"

Thomas P. F. Hoving, parks chief, makes his point about comfort - station - climbers.

Associated Press Wirephoto

IN THE MICHIGAN SKY: Photo, taken last week by a deputy sheriff 15 miles south of Ann Arbor, is said to show two unidentified flying objects. It was made with a Minox Model B camera having 3.5 lens and 9½-mm. film. A 10-minute time exposure was made.

Observer: Salvation Through Flying Saucers

By RUSSELL BAKER

WASHINGTON, March 28—The flying saucers seen in Michigan last week are now officially dismissed as swamp gas. It is probably just as well. One of these days a genuine flying saucer will come to earth and, after the excitement wears off, there will be one less mystery in the universe to keep us awake.

Psychologists hold that many of us believe in flying saucers because we want flying saucers to exist. Not so. We can see that it is not so by considering what will happen after the first few flying saucers have landed.

The Full Reaction

The immediate reaction will be an intense interest. All three TV networks will pre-empt their afternoon schedules, as well as "Batman" and "I Love Lucy" reruns, to cover the event, and no one will telephone the networks to complain.

There will be a national wave of disappointment when the saucer opens and fails to disgorge either a tall, slim man who resembles Michael Rennie or little green men wearing glass globes around their heads. The likelihood that whatever it is that is able to land missions on earth from distant worlds will have any human characteristics is remote.

When the saucer is opened, it is more likely to contain cats or flying cockroaches. Or it may contain something utterly uninteresting. Great balls of moss, perhaps, or piles of rubber bands.

Now, while a visit from another planet is a fascinating event to look forward to, the real thing is almost certain to be an anticlimax, particularly if the visitors are no more interesting than cats or rubber bands or great moss balls.

After the first few landings the public will begin to find the whole business tiresome. Ten years ago, the prediction that man would shortly travel in space thrilled and absorbed the world. Recently, when two space travelers encountered a serious emergency, thousands of people complained because the networks interrupted favorite TV programs to report what was happening.

Nothing palls nowadays as rapidly as a miracle. After the first few saucer arrivals we will ask, "What's the idea of interrupting 'Bonanza' to report another saucerload of moss balls?"

This is why the psychologists are wrong. We do not want flying saucers to exist because, once their existence is established, something exciting will go out of life and saucer landings will take their place in the humdrum of daily existence along with the comings and goings of Lyndon B. Johnson, the crash of airliners and the billingsgate of politics.

What we want is to preserve the possibility that flying saucers exist without ever having to confront the real thing. So long as flying saucers are a possibility, we can entertain dreams about the universe.

So long as they are merely a possibility, it is possible that they really may have Michael Rennie aboard, or little green men with glass globes around their heads. The day they actually land, however, what will we have? Great balls of dull moss. Dreary cats. Or piles of depressing and perfectly uninteresting rubber bands.

Antidotes in the Zoo

The possibility of flying saucers is a healthy antidote for human boredom. Zoo keepers in Pittsburgh and New York have recently been seeking a similar antidote for their caged gorillas.

In both zoos officials have been trying to distract their gorillas from the pointlessness of life in a cage by wheeling up television sets and letting them watch "Hullabaloo," "The Untouchables," "Batman" and other such stuff. The gorillas were not interested. This is no reflection on television, for the gorillas would probably have been just as bored with the diaries of André Gide or copies of The Partisan Review.

The Pittsburgh zoo concluded that the only way to make caged life tolerable for a male gorilla was to provide a female gorilla. If gorillas were not so dumb, there would be a better way—namely, to teach them to believe in flying saucers.

A Gorilla's Hopes

A caged gorilla who believed in flying saucers would tell himself that someday, when the saucers landed, they would disgorge little green gorillas with glass globes around their heads who would free all the gorillas and cage the human race. A gorilla with dreams like that could stand life behind bars. It would kill him, of course, once the saucers actually landed and he found that they contained only great balls of moss.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1965.

Flying Object Reports, Some by Radar Men, Deluge Four States

OKLAHOMA CITY, Aug. 2 (AP) — Authorities in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas were deluged last night and early today by reports of unidentified objects seen flying in the sky.

The Sedgwick County sheriff's office at Wichita, Kan., said the Weather Bureau had tracked "several of them at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 feet."

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said that Tinker Air Force Base here had tracked four of the unidentified flying objects on its radar screen at one time, estimating their altitude at about 22,000 feet. A Tinker spokesman refused to confirm or deny the reports of radar observations.

Reports poured in from Pecos, Monahans, Odessa, Midland, Fort Worth, Canyon and Dalhart, Tex.; Hobbs, Carlsbad and Artesia, N. Mex.; Chickasha, Shawnee, Cushing, Buymon and Chandler, Okla.; and Oxford, Belle Plaine, Winfield, Caldwell, Mulvane and Wichita, Kan.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said police officers in three different patrol cars had reported watching the objects fly in a diamond-shaped formation for about 30 minutes in the Shawnee area. The patrol said the officers had described the objects as changing in color from red to white to blue-green.

At 3:40 A.M., the Weather Bureau at Wichita said it had tracked one of the objects south and west of Wellington. The bureau said the object had first appeared on its radar at an altitude of about 22,000 feet and had then descended to 4,000 feet.

Descriptions telephoned to the police and other authorities included these:

"I was a disbeliever, but I saw something up there tonight and so did other observers at the Weather Bureau."

"They were red and exploded in a shower of sparks and at other times fluttered like a leaf."

"You could see it with the naked eye. It looked like it was on the ground or hovering just above the ground. It was red, greenish blue and yellowish white, about 100 yards long and egg shaped."

Discounted by Air Force

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (AP) The Air Force said today that people were apparently seeing stars. In answer to questions on the reports of flying objects, a spokesman said:

"Initial study of reports received would indicate that the observations were astronomical in nature. The objects observed may have been the planet Jupiter or the stars Rigel, Capella, Betelgeuse or Aldebaran, which were visible. At the time of the reported sightings, the azimuth and elevation of the reported sightings supports this preliminary conclusion."

The spokesman said there was no indication at this time that any of the reported objects had actually been tracked on radar. As is customary, he said, continued study of the reported sights will be made.

NUOVA YORK, 9 luglio.

Non un disco volante ma uno strumento sonda ad uso meteorologico è risultato essere l'oggetto rinvenuto ieri a Roswell nel deserto del Nuovo Messico.

Il misterioso ordigno, trasportato per ordine del generale di brigata aerea Roger Roamey per mezzo di una fortezza volante al comando dell'aeroporto di Wright è un semplice disco a raggera usato per stabilire la direzione e la velocità del vento ad alta quota.

Il maresciallo Irving Newton dell'ufficio presagi dell'ottavo centro aeronautico che ha potuto esaminarlo, ha testualmente dichiarato: « Impieghiamo questi dischi perchè possono andare tanto in alto da non poter essere più visti ad occhio nudo. Per seguire il pallone che lo trasporta ad alta quota si adopera il radar, poi, per mezzo di calcoli trigonometrici compiliamo le carte dei venti alle maggiori altitudini. E' facile confondere questo oggetto con un disco volante, perchè quando viene lasciato libero, l'ordigno appare come una stella a sei punte di colore argenteo. Se parlate coi reduci di Okina vi diranno di averne già visti a centinaia. Infatti durante la battaglia furono fatti salire nel cielo decine e decine di palloni con lo strumento sonda per effettuare rilevazioni balistiche ad uso dei pezzi d'artiglieria campale ».

Frattanto le segnalazioni di dischi volanti fioccano ormai da ogni parte del mondo. Oltre alla testimonianza dei sei australiani di Sidney che hanno visto passare i misteriosi meteoriti a 3000 metri d'altezza, a quella dell'albergatore di Brighton che ha assistito ad un passaggio di dischi in formazione a *V* procedenti alla velocità di 700 chilometri all'ora, dei danesi di cui è stata data ieri notizia, oggi si segnalano nuovi passaggi nel Nord Europa.

Nonostante la stampa londinese sia scettica e dubiti dei testimoni che chiama « visionari » e qualche giornale americano abbia affermato trattarsi di un lancio pubblicitario di una grande casa di mode, gli stessi quotidiani sono costretti a segnalare un passaggio di « dischi » nel cielo della Svezia.

In America intanto continuano le segnalazioni dei passaggi dei dischi. Ciò che stupisce è il fatto che il maggior numero di dischi è stato visto nelle regioni vicine ad Oak Ridge la città atomica segreta americana. In questi ultimi tempi infatti in Oak Ridge — altrimenti chiamata la città dei reclusi — è infatti proibito ai 60 mila abitanti lasciare senza speciali permessi la città.

Ciò che prova la possibilità di una nuova arma scoperta ed esperimentata ad Oak Ridge sono i confronti delle testimonianze effettuati stamane da un critico militare nuovayorkese. Infatti mentre le descrizioni del «piatto fantasma» differiscono fra loro in Europa e in Australia, in America tutti quelli che hanno assistito ai passaggi hanno dato una versione quasi uguale. Quelli poi delle zone e delle regioni nei pressi di Oak Ridge sono molto più precise nei particolari. Un dato conferma queste asserzioni: la minore velocità.

Infatti i dischi, visti dagli abitanti delle zone vicino alla città segreta — a 1000, 1500 metri d'altezza — procedono a una velocità che non supera i 200 chilometri, perchè l'apparecchio propulsore, forse, non è diverso da quello delle « buzz-bomb », le «V 2» tedesche, che hanno appunto alla partenza una velocità limitata.

When G.M. Apologizes

"Corporations cannot commit treason, nor be outlawed nor excommunicated, for they have no souls."

Thus wrote the English jurist, Sir Edward Coke, in 1612. He apparently was the man who first gave currency to the epithet—"soulless corporation."

But if corporations still have no souls, their public relations men have provided a corporate equivalent—The Image. And they guard that Madison Avenue "soul" with all the fervor of a fasting acolyte.

Last week both sides of this split personality were on startling display in a single incident. James M. Roche, president of the giant of American industry—General Motors—publicly ate crow for an especially questionable bit of activity by his subordinates.

Mr. Roche's apology stemmed from events that followed publication of a book by Ralph Nader, called "Unsafe At Any Speed," which condemned automobile manufacturers for failing to design available safety features into their cars. Mr. Nader had asserted that around and during the period of his recent testimony on automobile safety before a Senate subcommittee, he was the subject of an intense undercover investigation by private detectives.

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Leslie and Adamski's "Flying Saucers Have Landed"

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the "investigation."

As for Mr. Nader, apology or not, he was not abandoning his campaign for safer cars. Noting that his book had sold 27,000 copies, he pointed out that it had been vastly outsold both by Jessica Mitford's exposure of the funeral industry, "The American Way of Death," and Truman Capote's true account of a mass murder, "In Cold Blood."

"And I could have used either title for my book," Mr. Nader remarked.

Saucers And Swamps

"As I looked, a stormwind came from the North, a huge cloud with flashing fire from the midst of which something gleamed like electrum."

So wrote the prophet Ezekiel in his Old Testament description of the fiery wheels he saw in the sky. The words might have been uttered last week when close to 600 persons reported seeing strange flying objects.

At points from Michigan to Florida, people were seeing strange "spots." The first report of a UFO (unidentified flying object) came near Ann Arbor, Mich., where at least 40 persons said they saw a flying "thing" guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp.

Frank Mannor and his son claimed they had come within 500 yards of the object which they described as football-shaped, car-sized, with pulsating lights at each end, and with a surface "pitted like coral rock."

As Dr. H. Allen Hynek, top Air Force scientific advisor on UFO, waded into the Michigan swamp where the alleged object had been seen, he admitted, "These reports are more consistent than the other sightings I've investigated."

As with most saucer sightings, a rash of subsequent reports followed. Eighty-seven coeds at Hillsdale College in Michigan saw a glowing object hover over a nearby swamp. Four hundred Michigan University students saw a football shaped UFO, and in North Carolina four ladies driving home after a day's work in a tobacco factory reported a blue flash in the sky.

By week's end, Dr. Hynek came up with his explanation of the Michigan "saucers." He said the sightings there were produced by spring thaws releasing swamp gases, which produced a strange glow—the phenomenon known in folklore as the "will o' the wisp," and the "jack-o-lantern." "A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space," he said.

Faubus: 'No' Or Is It Maybe?

A few miles from his log-cabin birthplace in the Ozark Mountains, Orval E. Faubus, who came to national attention with his battle against school integration in Little Rock in 1957, is building

he got out of the race in 1962 only to return just before the filing deadline. No one has declared himself in the race since Mr. Faubus's announcement. The deadline is April 27.

Although Mr. Faubus's polltaker confirmed his good standing last week, reports have persisted recently that polls showed him slipping. The Governor was reported to be still ahead of Winthrop Rockefeller, the Republican candidate he beat by 80,000 votes in 1964, but with a growing number of undecided voters. Mr. Faubus is believed to have decided the risk was too great.

Hughes Got Votes But Wrong Ones

After the elections last November, the seemingly undisputed ruler of New Jersey politics was Democratic Gov. Richard J. Hughes. He had been re-elected by the largest margin in the state's history—more than 350,000 votes—and, in his landslide, had carried Democratic majorities in both houses of the Legislature for the first time since 1913. Events last week, however, indicated that his position was not as strong as most people thought.

During the campaign — and earlier — Governor Hughes had said that the time had come for New Jerseyites to face up to some unpleasant facts. More and more financial demands were being made on the state, especially for education. But as the only state without a broadly-based tax such as on sales or personal income, New Jersey did not have effective means for raising large sums. Governor Hughes favored a graduated income tax, because, he said, it was fairer than a sales tax which hurts low-income groups the most.

With a 41-19 Democratic margin in the Assembly and a 19-10 majority in the Senate, there was little reason to doubt that Mr. Hughes could get his income tax through, despite unanimous Republican opposition. His entire program, in fact, was predicated on passage of the tax, since his proposed record $870-million budget was balanced—a constitutional requirement—through anticipated receipts from it.

But Governor Hughes ran into unexpected opposition. Essex County Democrats—with enough votes in the Senate to hold the balance—followed their powerful leader, Dennis F. Carey, and rebelled. These legislators owed a lot more to Mr. Carey than they did to the Governor. While they may have ridden into office on Mr. Hughes's coattails, they were on the ballot in the first place only because Mr. Carey had put them there. In New Jersey politics, Governors come and go but the county political bosses remain.

Mr. Carey favored a sales tax rather than Mr. Hughes's income tax. Further, some observers thought Mr. Carey saw the issue as a good one on which to challenge Mr. Hughes's party leadership. He was known to consider the Governor a weak leader and recently

... The target was Alabama's Bullock County, an area where more than 70 per cent of the 13,000 population is Negro and where Negro registration has now caught up with and seems likely to surpass the number of whites on the voting rolls.

Last August, two weeks after President Johnson signed the Voting Act, the Alabama Legislature enacted a law extending the term of the county's governing body—the Court of County Commissioners—from four years to six years, thus postponing any election for new members until 1968. The state law went unnoticed until this year when Bullock County Negroes flexed their new political muscle and prepared to enter candidates for the May 3 Democratic primary.

The Justice Department's move to force the election under Title V took the form of a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Montgomery. It charged Alabama legislators with trying "to abridge, on account of race or color, the right of Negroes in Bullock County to vote for the commissioners" and declared that "white supremacy has prevailed" there since the turn of the century. The case will be heard by a panel of three Federal judges in Montgomery, probably within the next week or so.

In Washington, Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach indicated similar suits may be filed against other efforts in the South to evade the force and intent of the Federal law. He said: "The department will take whatever action is appropriate to carry out its responsibility under the law to assure that all qualified citizens have the opportunity not only to register but also to vote on an equal basis with others."

The TV Critic

Among primates, say the learned journals, the gorilla ranks close to man in intelligence. Last week the question was: Who outranks whom?

At Pittsburgh's Highland Park Zoo, officials were concerned about the mental state of a 4-year-old gorilla named Moe who has been moody, restless and bored since his mate, Susan, died recently. In an effort to distract Moe, a television set was wheeled into the cage and the cream of the major networks was displayed—"Hullabaloo," "Batman," "The Untouchables," "I Love Lucy" (there were no hearings that day of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee).

Moe scratched himself, gave an even deeper yawn than usual, and turned his back. His reaction was almost identical to that of the gorillas in the Bronx Zoo where a similar experiment was tried last year (the Nielsen people are believed to have suppressed the facts about the Bronx test).

Highland director Howard Hays said he thought the only solution might be the purchase of a new female gorilla to take the place of Susan—if the money ($5,000) can be found. Against that kind of distratcion, no male intelligence—*genus gorilla*, or *genus homo sapiens*—has ever proved adequate.

Those Sky Objects: Meteors or Mirages, Says Space Expert

BOSTON, Aug. 22 (UPI)—The Air Force's chief science adviser said tonight he believed that all unidentified flying objects were explainable phenomena.

Dr. Joseph Kaplan, a physicist at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a noted space scientist, said sightings of objects could mainly be attributed to meteoric material or to mirages. A number of sightings have been reported recently.

In an interview on the "Newsmakers" program of WBZ, Dr. Kaplan said he had conducted a study of such sightings when they were first reported in 1950.

"I think it was very clear then that at least some of the objects were meteoric material, fireballs, seen by people who were not accustomed to seeing these things," he said.

"Not very many people see a fireball, and you see one and very often the next one will have a different color. So many of these reports turned out to be authentic reports of fireballs.

"And secondly, mirages. The appearance, say, of a star or the planet Venus under certain circumstances could fool anyone.

"I recall flying in an airplane over a large expanse of stratus clouds during that period and looking out at Venus, which had an unusual appearance at the time, and I was fooled.

"So the atmospheric optics or optics in general, the appearance of things—and the ability of a person to estimate the speed and height of moving objects is extremely bad—you put all of these together and I would say that I haven't changed my mind about unidentified flying objects."

Schirra and Stafford Prepare for Gemini 6

HOUSTON, Aug. 22 (UPI)—Comdr. Walter M. Schirra and Maj. Tom P. Stafford, the crew for the Gemini 6 space flight, will perform "egress" training tomorrow in the Gulf of Mexico.

During the two-hour exercise, the astronauts will practice getting in and out of a spacecraft floating in the water. Several practice procedures will be performed.

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2 DEPUTIES CHASE A FLYING OBJECT

Tell of Following It From Ohio Into Pennsylvania

RAVENNA, Ohio, April 17 (UPI) — Two deputy sheriffs followed a "bright circular" unidentified flying object early today from Atwater, Ohio to Freedom, Pa., a distance of 85 miles.

Deputies Dale Spaur and W. L. Neff of Portage County were investigating a traffic accident at 5 A.M. when they were alerted by radio to be on the lookout for an object heading their way.

Deputy Spaur, an Air Force gunner during the Korean war, said the circular object "about 30 to 45 feet in diameter traveled at speeds from 80 to 100 miles an hour."

"It was about 1,000 feet in the air and was extremely bright," he radioed to the Portage County sheriff's headquarters here. "I had never seen anything this bright before in my life."

The two deputies were joined in the chase at East Palestine, Ohio, just across the state line from Pennsylvania, by an East Palestine patrolman, Wayne Huston.

Patrolman Huston said the object appeared larger than an airliner and traveled in a straight line. He said it would change altitude suddenly.

"It was a funny thing," he said, "but when the object got too far ahead of us it appeared to stop and wait."

The deputies said they followed the object down State Route 224 to State Route 14 through Salem, East Palestine and into Pennsylvania.

Many other persons also reported seeing a strange object in the sky. Three rubbish collectors in Benton Harbor, Mich., described the object as so bright "you couldn't look straight at it."

In Pittsburgh, the Air Force and the Greater Pittsburgh airport tower denied reports that an unidentified object was picked up on radar.

POLICE IN MIDWEST REPORT ON 'SAUCERS'

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 3 (AP)—Unidentified flying objects—said by some to be stars, meteors or illusions—were spotted over parts of Minnesota and North Dakota during the night.

Dozens of police officers on patrol between 12:20 and 2:30 A.M. reported sightings in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. According to various reports, the objects, "bobbed, dipped, hovered, stopped, jerked along and sped away."

An officer in suburban Shorewood radioed his dispatcher: "Boys, I hope you don't think I'm crazy, but I just got passed by a star."

The airport control tower said it had seen nothing on radar.

CURITIBA, Brazil, Aug. 3 (Reuters)—A squadron of 18 flying saucers was seen by five persons in the north of Brazil's Parana State, according to press reports here today.

The report said two girls first sighted four objects coming over the horizon in daylight at Astorga, about 250 miles west of São Paulo. They called three neighbors, who reportedly saw the four objects, followed by 14 other saucers flying in formation.

The objects were described as silvery with a greenish light shining from the top.

I «dischi volanti» sarebbero fulmini globulari

Questo è il parere del prof. Armellini e della grande maggioranza degli astronomi

Roma 22 settembre, notte.

Un disco di fuoco, un globo incandescente ha solcato, verso le 19 di ieri, il cielo di Roma. Il fenomeno è stato notato da numerose persone che, naturalmente, hanno pensato si trattasse di un «disco volante».

Lo stesso fenomeno è stato osservato dal prof. Armellini, direttore dell'Osservatorio astronomico di Monte Mario, il quale ha affermato trattarsi invece di un fulmine globulare.

«Devo premettere — ha dichiarato a un giornalista il prof. Armellini — che i grandi cannocchiali astronomici i quali pesano tonnellate, sono mossi da speciali motori elettrici che li fanno rotare assai lentamente in modo da poter seguire il corso delle stelle, dal nascere al tramonto. E' quindi impossibile per gli astronomi, con questi cannocchiali, osservare i cosiddetti "dischi volanti" che si muovono assai rapidamente in cielo e per i quali occorrono leggeri e speciali teodoliti, mobilissimi come quelli dell'aeronautica.

«In ogni modo, come da confidenze fatte fra colleghi nell'ultimo congresso internazionale degli astronomi tenutosi in Roma dal 4 al 14 settembre e a cui intervennero circa 400 astronomi di ogni Nazione, posso affermare che la maggioranza degli stessi astronomi ritiene che in gran parte i "dischi volanti" siano in realtà costituiti da fulmini globulari, cioè grandi bolle d'aria altamente ionizzata ed elettrizzata».

...mila, un terzo di 40 mila e altri minori.

Ancora i «dischi volanti»

La schiera degli scettici o degli indifferenti in materia di «dischi volanti» ha visto ancora ieri sera assottigliare le proprie file. Sono state molte le segnalazioni pervenuteci da parte di chi, con scrupolo documentario, voleva portare il suo obiettivo contributo alla cronaca; e bisogna dire che, almeno quanto all'ora in cui il fenomeno veniva osservato, le varie fonti concordano: dalle ore 20 e 53 alle 20 e 56, secondo le zone. Una segnalazione extracittadina è venuta anzitutto da Turbigo. Un ingegnere notava un disco luminoso, con intensa luce giallo-verde, solcare la volta del cielo rapidamente da sud-ovest verso nord. In città, a porta Garibaldi, a porta Romana e anche altrove, il «disco» è apparso con una breve scia rossastra; il diametro poteva essere d'un terzo circa di quello della luna, la velocità appariva costante, minore di quella d un comune meteorite, e la traiettoria orizzontale.

Una retata di bagarini è stata compiuta l'altra sera in piazza della Scala da ...

TWO RECALL PATH OF FLYING OBJECT

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Aug. 30 — The path a mysterious reddish object took through the sky Friday night was reconstructed from memory tonight by two men who had seen it.

Robert I. Johnson, director of Adler Planetarium here, and an assistant, Frederick Henning, spotted the object independently from different sides of the dome of the planetarium Friday night.

They picked it up without visual aids while watching for Echo I, the United States balloon satellite, to pass over this area. Mr. Johnson said he then fixed it in binoculars and watched it for a minute as it moved over Chicago from east to west, a course opposite to that of Echo I.

He said the red object was going twice as fast as the balloon satellite, which orbits at a speed of 16,000 miles an hour.

Mr. Johnson said tonight that he was informed today that astronomers at Georgetown University in Washington saw the object Wednesday.

His informant was the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Washington, a privately supported group that asked him for further data on the mystery object. He said the National Space Surveillance Center at New Bedford, Mass., also had asked for more information.

Stonehill College Names Dean

U.S. Reports No Clues On 663 Flying Objects

WASHINGTON, March 5 (AP)—After 18 years of investigating reports of flying objects, the Air Force has reported that 663 of the objects sighted could not be identified.

The latest Air Force report, made available today, showed that 8,908 reported sightings were investigated from 1947 through 1964.

The Air Force evaluated the reported sightings either as identifiable, lacking in data to permit an evaluation or unidentified.

The Air Force said no reported sighting "has ever given any indication of threat to our national security."

...

was on the opposite side of the spectrum as the reported U.F.O. sightings," he added.

Fine, but what was it radar had fixed on?

"A building, we think at this point," he said. "An inversion [an atmospheric condition brought on by the meeting of fronts and varying temperatures] caused the radar beams to bounce off and fix on something on the ground.

"The Tinker fix remained stationary on the radarscope for 40 minutes, indicating something not moving. Don't forget, the sighted U.F.O.'s were reported as moving."

One Explanation

The major explained that inversions are responsible for many such sightings involving radar. If the ricochheted radar beam fixes on a truck or a train moving away from the radar facility, he said, it gives the impression of a high-flying unidentified object.

"The first thing I do when I get a reported sighting is check the weather in the area and my 'universe'," he said.

The major's "universe" is a large, round, movable map-like device on which all the planets and major stars of the universe surround the earth.

It can be moved so that the position of any planet or star can be set to show what area it was visible from at any given second.

He said his "universe" and the Weather Bureau had provided the solution to the majority of such sightings.

Ten Categories

Evidence compiled by Blue Book in its 18-year history has placed all unidentified flying objects in one of the following 10 categories:

¶High-flying balloons.

¶High-flying aircraft, illuminated by the sun after the sun had set on the ground.

¶Nightly "fata morgana" type reflections in the atmosphere of distant light sources on the ground.

¶Satellites, both United States and Soviet.

¶Meteorites, fireworks, flares, chaff and pieces of satellite decay.

¶Birds.

¶Planets Venus and Jupiter, or other astronomical bodies.

¶Searchlights reflected from cloud layers and the like.

¶Jet engine exhausts, condensation trails.

¶Hoaxes or mirages.

Major Quintanilla conceded that there were 663 unsolved cases—nearly half of them in the peak year of 1952.

But, he added: "None has ever given any indication of being a threat to our national security, of being beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge, or as being extraterrestrial."

ARREST RESISTANCE

York Times. FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1966

MYSTERY LIGHTS SHOWN IN PHOTOS

Deputy Sheriff in Michigan Says He Took Pictures as Objects Hovered in Sky

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 24 (AP)—Deputy Sheriff David Fitzpatrick showed photographs today of streaks of light in the sky that he said were made by unidentified flying objects he observed in the sky over southeast Michigan nine days ago.

More than a score of persons, including both deputies and policemen, have reported sighting flying objects at night since then.

Deputy Fitzpatrick made his photographs just outside Milan, Mich., 15 miles south of Ann Arbor, with a Minox Model B camera, roughly the size of a cigarette lighter.

He said the camera, which has a 3.5 lens, was on time exposure for 10 and 12 minutes.

The photographs show two distinct streaks of light high above street lights of Carpenter Road leading into Milan. No detailed objects, however, are visible in the photos, taken at 5:30 A.M.

Observed for 3 Hours

Deputy Fitzpatrick said his camera had been pointed southeast and that Sheriff's Sgt. Nuel K. Schneider also had observed the flying objects from about 4 A.M. to 7 A.M.

"They looked," he said, "like a brilliant light." He said it was a yellow-white light.

Enlarged to 8-by-10 inches from a negative smaller than a postage stamp, the photographs show streaks of light.

Deputy Fitzpatrick said he used his personal camera, film and tripod to make the pictures. The pictures were released by Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey.

Maj. Hector Quintanilla of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio, said earlier today the Air Force hoped to come up with a reasonable explanation of the objects within the next 24 hours. He gave no hint of what it might be.

Hoving Rises to the Occasion; Climbs a Wall in Park Cleanup

Pressing His Campaign, He Demonstrates the Methods Young Vandals Use

As passersby and maintenance workers looked on in wonder yesterday, Parks Commissioner Thomas P. F. Hoving scaled the wall of a comfort station to dramatize his fight against vandalism in the parks.

"This is how kids get up here and destroy the roofs," he yelled down from atop the 13-foot-high brick structure in DeWitt Clinton Park. The park is on West 52d Street between 11th and 12th Avenues.

Cement masons, part of the Park Department's new Operation Spruce-up" crew, immediately beveled and smoothed the bricks that Mr. Hoving had used as footholds to reach the top.

The tall, buoyant Commissioner, a former marine, surveyed the Manhattan beginning of the department's program to "revolutionize" the repair of rundown parks. He announced that damage to the city's parks by vandals in February had risen by almost $2,000 over January to an "abnormally high" $19,421.

$1.3-Million Requested

Mr. Hoving also disclosed that earlier this week he had submitted a request for $1.3-million to Budget Director Eugene M. Becker to provide each borough with a permanent special work crew.

Mr. Hoving said that about 35 parks, 10 of them in Manhattan, would be reconditioned in the program by the end of next month.

Four city parks have been refurbished under the program, which began early this month in Brooklyn.

Yesterday's project at DeWitt Clinton Park is the most ambitious yet and is scheduled to be completed at the end of next week at a cost of about $18,000. The seven-acre park has a baseball field, a basketball court, four handball courts, a wading pool and sitting area.

Thomas P. F. Hoving, parks chief, makes his point about comfort - station - climbers.

Forty-two men repaired broken slats in benches, patched cracks in the pavement and handball courts — they "hadn't been repaired since W.P.A. days," according to the Commissioner — planted trees and shrubs, fixed broken swings and smoothed the bricks where Mr. Hoving scaled the building.

Mrs. Mary McCartin, a matronly woman who has lived nearby all her life, said she grew up in the park but had not been there in the last four years because of the derelicts.

"I'm really looking forward to coming back this year now," she said.

Feared the Derelicts

"Maybe we'll finally get some people in here and chase away the derelicts," said John J. Henry, treasurer of the Clinton Planning Council, a neighborhood improvement group.

"This is great, Tom," said Councilman Theodore S. Weiss, whose district runs from 33d Street to 109th Street on the West Side, "but how about getting us some more parks here?"

"Sure, dad," replied Commissioner Hoving, "but how about getting me some more money?"